



SOCCKET ACTION

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CELTIC, MAN. UNITED, FOREST TO TOUR BUT . . .

Arok's sights are set on Seoul!

A crucial ASF World Cup committee meeting this weekend could decide the future of Australia's assault on an Olympics berth in Seoul in 1988 and Frank Arok's reign as national team boss.

Arok is adamant that his men participate in the President's Cup in Seoul from May 28 to June 4 but some World Cup committee members are understood to be keen to use the Socceroos in a four-team international tournament in Australia at the same time as the President's Cup.

"I find it hard to believe that anyone in the right frame of mind could do such a thing, either to me or to Australian soccer," said Arok.

"It's in our interests to go to Seoul and to play in the Olympic stadium there. It will give us a great understanding of what it is like to

play in a hostile environment."

The Seoul trip has other advantages.

Prizemoney for the President's Cup is \$US50,000 to the winner and \$US25,000 to the runner-up. Prizemoney for the proposed international tournament in Australia is \$A20,000 to the winner, \$A10,000 to the runner-up, \$A5,000 to the third-placed team and \$A2,000 to the fourth-placed team.

Arok also plans to play against Taiwan and Papua New Guinea on his way back from the President's Cup. These would be the away legs of Australia's Olympic preliminary qualifying commitments.



Craig MacKenzie

The cost of the Socceroos travel to and accommodation in South Korea will be met by the organisers of the President's Cup.

The 10-team President's Cup tournament comprises South Korea, North Korea, Chile, Kuwait, Nigeria, AC Milan, Sao Paulo, an eastern bloc nation, an English First Division club and, hopefully, Arok's Socceroos.

Staff competition indeed for Australia, but just the kind of challenge that Arok relishes.

"The degree of success we earned in our attempt to qualify for last year's World Cup Finals has set new standards for the national team and no longer can we afford to take any game lightly," said Arok.

"This is a new team that we are building and it has an aggressive, attacking mood. If this team can maintain a high level of competitiveness and attacking flair then we definitely are on the right track but we need another 20 top international matches with these players to turn them into a very, very capable outfit."

Westway, a Perth-based promotions company, is organising the international tournament which clashes with the President's Cup. Westway already has signed up Glasgow Celtic, Manchester United and Nottingham Forest. The Socceroos are tentatively booked to participate.

Westway director Brian Haffenden has been in Sydney recently and has met with ASF executive director Brian Emery to try and resolve the matter.

There is a possibility that the President's Cup could be rescheduled to June 7 to 21 but time is running out for Westway and chances are that the tournaments will clash.

in which Arok used mainly the fringe players in his squad then defeated the strong Shandong province side 2-0 with goals from Garry McDowell and Arnold.

Arok plans to take the Socceroos on a tour of South America which would kick-off in December this year and end in January 1988. It's an ambitious plan, given that Arok only has been hired until the Olympics in 1988.

Arok recognises that his main task is to reach Seoul but he also is casting his expert eye on the situation facing Australia in its fight to reach the 1990 World Cup Finals in Italy.

At present, the Socceroos are likely to have to meet a South American nation should they win the Oceania qualifying series so what better way of learning more about the road ahead than parading the national team in front of thousands of fanatic south American soccer fans?

The Socceroos played 10 games in 1986, winning five, drawing two and losing three. They scored 12 goals and conceded eight.

The Socceroos fared poorly in their three-match series against Czechoslovakia, drawing the first game 1-1 in Melbourne then losing 1-0 in Adelaide and 3-0 in Sydney.

"With more caution, we would have had better results against the Czechs but we were trying a few different things. We had an unfortunate cocktail of old and new players. We wanted to get some understanding into this new team, after all, about six established players had left the side," said Arok.

The Socceroos then went on to win the Trans Tasman Cup against New Zealand, a two-legged affair, and the Ampol Cup against China with a superb performance, capped by stunning goals from Chris Kalantzis and Graeme Arnold.

Australia's tour of China late last year also included two matches against provincial representative teams. The Socceroos drew 0-0 with Canton in a match

Hunter Jennings — Raskopoulos
Wade — Farina (Zinni 70th). Arnold

AUSTRALIA 2 (Dunn, Zinni) VICTORIAN ALL STARS 1 in Melbourne.

AUSTRIA Oliver (Franken) — Yankos — Savor. McDowell — Dunn (Hunter). Jennings — Raskopoulos. Arnold (Maxwell). Wade (Metz) — Farina (Tapis). Kalantzis (Zinni).

AUSTRALIA 2 (Maxwell, Yankos penalty) SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ALL STARS 1 in Adelaide.

AUSTRIA Oliver (Franken) — Savor. Yankos — Savor. McDowell — Dunn (12th). Arnold (Metz) — Wade. Raskopoulos. Metz. Tapis — Maxwell. Arnold (Lowell).

AUSTRALIA 2 (Kalantzis, Arnold) CHINA 0 in Canton.

AUSTRIA Oliver — Yankos — Savor. Dunn. Jennings — Raskopoulos. McDowell. Wade — Farina. Arnold. Kalantzis.

AUSTRALIA 0 CANADA 0 in Toronto.

AUSTRIA Franken (Gibson) — H.T. — Whealley — R Stevens. McDowell — Tapis. Arnold (Jennings 46th). Metz (Raskopoulos 55th) — Zinni. Maxwell. Lowe.

AUSTRALIA 2 (McDowell, Arnold) SHANDONG 0 in Shandong.

AUSTRIA Oliver — Yankos — Savor. Dunn. Jennings — Raskopoulos. McDowell. Wade — Farina. Arnold. Kalantzis.

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MATIC IN THE HUNT FOR A MAN FROM HONG KONG

The loss of Steve Maxwell to Marconi may not be a body-blow to 1986 national champion Adelaide Juventus, if coach Zoran Matic signs the star striker from Hong Kong that he's been chasing.

Matic returned from overseas last weekend and immediately conferred with Juventus president Charlie Caruso over the possibility of signing the striker.

Adelaide Juventus has signed Joe Mullen's young brother Tim for \$1000 from local State League club Salisbury United. Tim Mullen was at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra last year and is a youth international.

Goalkeeper Steve Niscioli has had a knee operation and still is unable to train but should be ready for action by the start of the league season.

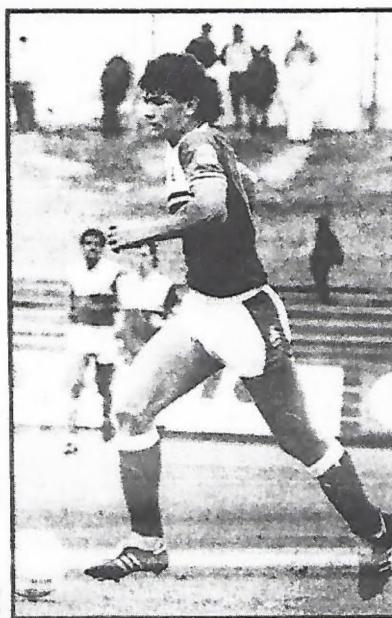
The Adelaide Juventus first team squad is:

GK: Willie McNally, Steve Niscioli.

DEFENDERS: Paul Shillaber, Bugsy Nykohus, Neville Flounders, Alex Tobin, Garry Higgins.

MIDFIELDERS: Charlie Villani, Serge Melita, Adrian Sancra, Aurelio Vidmar.

FORWARDS: Joe Mullen, Tim Mullen, Paul Wilde.



• John Markovski — George Cross is confident of retaining him.



• Adelaide Juventus president Charlie Caruso (left) and coach Zoran Matic proudly display the 1986 national championship trophy.

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TRIMBOLI MAY FOLLOW LANE

After splurging \$30,000 on the transfer of striker Sean Lane from Preston Makedonia, Brunswick Juventus now has set its sights on beating George Cross in the race to sign youth international Paul Trimballi.

"Young Paul hasn't made his mind up yet but we've done as much as we can for the boy," said Juventus team manager Joe Caruso.

Juventus left back Eddie Campbell hasn't come to terms with the club and has been training with the youth team. He's been told that he won't be selected for practice games or Buffalo Gold Cup matches until he reaches agreement over a new contract. Campbell hasn't missed a game for Juventus in the past two and a half years and in 1985 won the club's best and fairest award, the same year in which he attracted the attention of national team coach Frank Arko.

Juventus already has lost midfielders Mike Petersen to Dutch giant Ajax Amsterdam

and Paul Wade to South Melbourne Hellas. Wade switched to Hellas for the \$8000 maximum transfer fee stipulated in his contract with Juventus.

The former Croydon, Green Gully and "Soccer Action" NSL Player of the Year wants to cement his place in the national team and saw Hellas as the best vehicle for that aim.

Paul Donnelly from Western Australia had been training with Juventus during the off-season but his club Azzuri has convinced him that his interests are best served by staying in the west. Donnelly is a temporary visa player and is on the threshold of gaining permanent residency. He felt that a switch of clubs could jeopardise his residency chances.

Midfielder John Dowie remains under an injury cloud. Dowie had been training but a recurrence of an Achilles complaint has sidelined him at present.

Juventus also has signed Anthony Grbach, who, like Trimballi, was at the Australian Institute of Sport last year. Grbach is a former Juventus player.

Striker Joe Sweeney has been transfer listed at \$22,000 but team manager Caruso stressed that that figure is negotiable.

Goalkeeper Yakkha Banovic has been transferred listed at \$15,000 amid claims that some at the club blamed Banovic for Juve's exit from last year's South Division finals series. Banovic is a class keeper who has played with Melbourne Croatia, Heidelberg, Derby County, Tasmania and Australia.

Four members of last year's Juventus youth team are training with the first team squad. They are Joe Montemurro,



• Eddie Campbell

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EDITOR: Craig MacKenzie

ASSISTANT EDITOR: John Mangan

MANAGING EDITOR: Leonard J. Shaw

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Joe Palaitides

NEW SOUTH WALES: Gordon Durnford, The Globe Bridge Co, 64 Victoria St, North Sydney 2006. Phone: (02) 957 2033

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Cross keen to sign Cooper

George Cross is keen to sign former Bray Wanderers striker Keiran Cooper who played with Brisbane City last season and also scored the winning goal in Queensland's 1-0 defeat of NSW.

Cooper earned a big reputation during his stint with City, one that clearly filtered back to the George Cross camp.

Cooper has been back in his native Ireland playing with the Wanderers during the Australian off-season.

George Cross coach John Gardiner also is keen to sign youth international Paul Trimballi but Gardiner will have to cross swords with the Brunswick Juventus camp over that one.

Gardiner is expected to go to Scotland mid-season to do his Scottish FA coaching badge and there's little doubt that while he's over there he'll be training his keen eye on a couple of players.

John James and Mark Lennon probably will be the only absences from the squad

that took George Cross into the Southern Division finals last year. James has joined Footscray JUST while Lennon leaves in late March on an overseas working holiday.

Noel Mitten, Lou Kastner, Kevin Innes and John Markovski still have to come to terms with the club. Markovski will be hardest to hold but George Cross officials remain confident of retaining the teenager who made a sensational introduction to the NSL last year.

Midfielder Don Maclareen returned from England recently and defender John Campbell is recovering from a groin injury.

The George Cross first team squad is:

GK: Sean Keogh, Lou Kastner.

DEFENDERS: John Campbell, Shaw Parton, Steve Richardson, Chris Taylor, Andrew Martin.

MIDFIELDERS: Noel Mitten, Don Maclareen, Jeff Faulkner, Kevin Innes, Roger Bain, John Markovski.

STRIKERS: Carl Gilder, Andy Edwards.

Peter Lewis, John Yzendoorn, David Vesnaver.

MIDFIELDERS: Rob Culien, Fabio Incantalupo, John Dowie, Joe Palaitides, Memet Durakovic, Anthony Grbach.

FORWARDS: Sean Lane, Andrew Zinni, Scott Patterson.



• Robbie Slater — joined Sydney Croatia from Blacktown for \$15,000.

Croatia signs Robbie Slater

Sydney Croatia has completed the transfer of striker Robbie Slater from Blacktown in a deal that saw Blacktown gain \$15,000 and goalkeeper Steve Watson in exchange for Slater.

That brings Croatia's outlay on new players for this season to \$55,000 but if you include Watson, who was negotiating with Blacktown anyway and had an \$8000 price tag on his head.

The other Croatia signings are stopper Ray Vlietstra from Wollongong for \$15,000, goalkeeper Tony Franken from Canberra for \$12,000 and defender Mark Jones from Newcastle Reserve for \$5000.

Zeljko Jurin, Croatia's star striker, returned from overseas last week but has yet to agree to terms for 1987 and has earned him a \$50,000 transfer listing.

There's probably no way that that kind of money will be offered for the talented forward, even given the buoyancy of the transfer market in Sydney.

Perhaps the figure is designed to scare away potential buyers and it wouldn't surprise to see Jurin staying at Croatia.

Croatia has sold Emil Dragicic to Sydney Olympic for \$8000 while Marjan Kovacic is transfer listed at \$14,000 and brother Alex is listed at \$2000.

Coach Vedran Rozic still has a very impressive squad and there's little doubt that Croatia will be one of the strongest sides in the 1987 West End NSL.

The Sydney Croatia first team squad is:

GK: Robbie Slater, Tony Franken, Greg Woodhouse.

DEFENDERS: Ray Vlietstra, Mark Jones, Wally Savor, Graham Jennings, Vedran Rozic.

MIDFIELDERS: Drago Rezo, Shane Clinch, Zarko Odzakov, Ante Rumors, Iain Kerr.



Greedy: \$10,000 Cotton: \$8000 McKie on a free

"This year sees probably the biggest change at St George since I took over in 1981. The team I built served us well. It won promotion back to the National League and it won the National league title but now I have to build another team."

That's Frank Arok speaking, of course, and he's referring to the biggest player upheaval of any NSL club in 1987.

St George has sold David Ratcliffe to Sydney Olympic for \$15,000, David Skeen to Wollongong for \$4000, Zoran Belusic to Yugoslav Miklos Orszagh has returned to Yugoslavia.

St George won't be renewing the contracts of Rob and John O'Shea; John McKie is on a free transfer. Terry Greedy is transfer listed at \$10,000. Roy Cotton is transfer listed at \$8000 and Stewart Porter is, in Arok's words, "a week-to-week proposition".

Greedy can stay at St George but Arok has made it clear that his former No 1 goalkeeper will have to fight hard for his spot which currently is in the clutches of Mike Gibson.

The newcomers are:

Nell Owens 21, signed from Newcastle Rosebud for \$5000 to fill the sweeper's role;

Scott Hughes, scorer of two goals in last year's NSW State League Grand Final and signed from Sutherland for \$4000; David

Green, a fullback from Wollongong, who was part of the Skeen deal; Kevin Melcock, a striker from Austral in Newcastle for \$4000 and a former Bristol City and Gisborne City player and Alan Pottier, signed from Stirling in Western Australia for \$6000.

Arok currently is negotiating for the signature of defender or midfielder George Kulscar from Canberra. He expects to have to pay about \$1500 for Kulscar's transfer fee.

Arok also may sign midfielder Stuart Johnston from Sydney Olympic. Johnston is transfer listed at \$5000 and has been training with St George.

The Saints boss also is trying to sign a player on the local market but was keeping tight lipped about his identity.

Forward Andrew Kocza was operated on last week for a snapped lateral ligament and will be out of action for about 10 weeks.

The St George first team squad is:

GOALKEEPERS: Mike Gibson, Terry Greedy, Keith Warren, Angelo Rodic.

DEFENDERS: Scott Hughes, Mike O'Shea, Nell Owens, David Green, Ken Slaveski, Mike Grbevski, Robert Harmat, Alex Lambropoulos, Mike Boagardt.

MIDFIELDERS: Pedro Ricoy, Stewart Porter, Craig Moffitt, Alan Pottier, Stuart Johnston.

FORWARDS: Peter Petkovski, Kevin Melcock, Graham Fletcher, Andrew Kocza.



• Terry Greedy (right) in the wars with the Socceroos — now he's no longer No. 1 goalkeeper at St George.

Deadlock over Davidson deal

As we went to press, Melbourne Croatia hoped to complete the transfers of midfielder Jim MacLean and striker Andy Humble, both from Croydon, and teenage striker Anton Lemezina from Canberra.

Croatia also was in the hunt for Alan Scott from Adelaide Hellas but Hellas has put \$25,000 on Scott's head, which is a major hitch in the completion of the deal.

Croatia is being thwarted in its bid to sign Alan Davidson from South Melbourne Hellas. Davidson has agreed terms with Croatia but Hellas has placed a \$35,000 price tag on him and the Socceroo defender is understood to be considering taking legal action against Hellas.

"I probably won't complete my first team squad until about mid-March," said Croatia coach Terry Hennessy.

Steve Gojevic, who has joined Preston Makedonia, is one of seven players missing from last year's first team squad. The others are Drago Deankovic, Davor Todoric, Luka Bonacic, Ante Ljubic, Tony Curcio and Laurie Abrahams.

Croatia already has forked out \$23,000 for the transfer of Socceroo defender Robbie Dunn from Adelaide Hellas. The club hopes to snap up MacLean for \$8000 and Humble for just \$1500.

There has been speculation in the Melbourne press recently concerning Oscar Crino joining Croatia but club president Jack Skoblar is less than optimistic.

"The first thing Oscar has to do is to sort out his wrangle with Cyprus club Anorthosis and that could develop into a long, drawn-out affair," said Skoblar.

But the Croatia president was in a far happier frame of mind when discussing the prospects of young Lemezina, who made his National team debut last season.

"Anton is a future star, he's a very, very skilful player and we're expecting big things from him."

Former Socceroo Peter Ollerton is Croatia's assistant coach.

The Melbourne Croatia first team squad is:

GOALKEEPERS: Mirko Runje, Zeljko Govic.

DEFENDERS: Dave McIntosh, Robbie Dunn, George Hannah, Mark Talajic, Alan Davidson (subject to clearance).

MIDFIELDERS: Josip Bliskic, Jim MacLean, Jim Campbell, Zeljko Gagula.

FORWARDS: Paul Lewis, Robert Markovac, Andy Humble.



• Socceroo captain Charlie Yankos — joined APIA from Adelaide Hellas.

Basic snares Yankos, Brown, Zajmi, Phillips

Strikers Rod Brown and Hilton Phillips, sweeper Charlie Yankos and midfielder Burim Zajmi have been APIA's big signings this year.

Brown transferred from Marconi for an undisclosed fee, Yankos transferred from Adelaide Hellas for \$22,000, Zajmi is a visa player who guested with Canterbury Marrickville last year and Phillips, ex-Fulham, transferred from Canterbury for \$10,000.

APIA coach Ray Basic understandably with his new signings.

"Rod Brown is a striker I always wanted to have in my team. He's elegant, he's fast and he's very, very difficult to

mark. For too long he's been sitting nowhere, virtually doing nothing in terms of his development. Remember the Youth Cup Finals in Mexico? What a player he was. That's the Rod Brown I want to see again," said Basic.

"Charlie Yankos, the national team captain, a man with a huge public profile — for just \$22,000! Magic! He's generated great publicity for APIA already. One of the signs written about him in the 'Sydney Morning Herald' mentioned that he was keen to further his career in management and six major companies contacted him and offered him a job. That's the kind of interest generated by signing him. He'll be a great buy for APIA."

"Burim Zajmi is a former Dynamo Zagreb player and as far as I'm concerned he is a magnificent footballer. He's a big, big signing, believe me."

"Hilton Phillips is just 23-years-old. He's fast, he's explosive and he's going to be an excellent partner for Rod Brown."

Vince Colaguri was in APIA's first team squad last year but he's playing in Italy after buying out his contract for \$7000, while Zivko Hristovski, in Basic's words, "doesn't know what he wants to do."

Darren Stewart had a minor heel operation but should be back on the training soon.

The news about striker Mark

Koussas isn't so good. Koussas has undergone surgery to repair damage to a cruciate ligament and could be out of action for some time yet.

Basic's assistant is John Stoddart while Mike Urukalo is handling the physical conditioning of the players.

APIA's first team squad is:

GOALKEEPER: Tony Pezzano.

DEFENDERS: Vic Bozanic, Mark Brady, Darren Stewart, Mark Brown, Arne Bertogna, Charlie Yankos.

MIDFIELDERS: Terry Butler, Eduard Lorenz, Alex Bandal, Burim Zajmi.

FORWARDS: Rod Brown, Hilton Phillips, Janusz Baran, Tony Parson, Louis Dounis.

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Socceroo accused of poisoning

By LYNN PATTERSON

An African holiday has turned into a nightmare for two well-known Victorian women soccer players accused of attempting to poison a fellow tourist.

Tracey Singleton (pictured) of North Box Hill, who represented Australia overseas on several occasions, and Margaret Roy, of Dandenong, former Box Hill coach and Victorian team player, were dumped off a safari tour several weeks ago.

Tracey is from a strong soccer family, her brother David being a Croydon player and father Stan a former manager with junior teams here and in New Zealand.

The women now are in London fighting to clear their names and get compensation from Guerba, the travel company involved.

They would have come home in April at the end of the African tour but instead, accused of putting potassium permanganate in the water bottle of a fellow traveller, they were put off the tour near Malabar, South Africa.

Several other people on the tour left in sympathy with them and the group of six then had to travel by taxi for eight hours to reach Bamako, the capital of Mali.

The small group eventually made its way back to England, forced to spend four hours in Libya en route.

Margaret Roy, holder of British and Australian passports, was terrified because of threats made by Libya's leader, Colonel Gadaffi, about British people in his country, following the American bombing of Libya using planes flying from bases in England.

The safari tour cost several thousand dollars and both women had to spend several thousand more to get back to London.

An executive of Guerba now has halted the 21 week tour in Lagos, Nigeria, and has flown there to sort out the situation.

Mrs Hogkinson, Margaret Roy's mother, said the past two weeks had been very upsetting for the two Victorian travellers and their parents at home.

She said: "I won't be happy until I see my daughter walking up the driveway of this house. I want to have her home as soon as possible."

When the girls rang from London and told us what they had been through they said the experience had been frightening. They were alright now but we want them home soon."

The safari was the final leg of a 12-month \$20,000 overseas trip which saw the two friends travel through America, Canada, Europe and Britain.

Both had worked hard for years to fund the trip of a lifetime. They had a major setback in New York when all their personal items were stolen.

The African tour was not well organised and relations between some of the 20 travellers became strained. Tracey told her parents in a phone call from London, she and Margaret had been on other organised group tours in different parts if the world and had no problems.

They have little money left so intend to seek a refund of some tour money and compensation for extra costs and hardship.

End of an era for the mighty Hakoah?

Sydney City Hakoah's reign as one of the mightiest teams in the land could be at an end after the departure of five of last year's first team squad.

John Kosmina has joined Olympic, Gerry Gomez has joined Marconi, Joe Watson is player-coach of NSW Second Division club Kingsford, John Spanos also has joined Kingsford and Alex McPherson was expected to join Blacktown as we went to press.

Struggle

Hakoah coach Eddie Thomson already has resigned himself to a season of struggle.

"Clubs in Sydney are going absolutely crazy with signings on fees and there's now way known that I'm going to get involved in that caper," said Thomson.

"I'll play the kids if I have to, even if it means that we only finish in the middle of the table."

Thomson's only new signing for 1987 is goalkeeper Clint Gosling who joined from Newcastle Rosebud for a \$6,000 transfer fee.

But the Hakoah boss was hopeful of also signing Gosling's Newcastle team mate, striker Sean Ingham, a former Australian youth international. Hakoah and Ingham reached terms over a contract and Thomson believed that there only was \$5,000 on Ingham's head. Imagine his surprise when Newcastle informed him that Ingham was transfer listed at \$15,000!



• John Kosmina — joined Sydney Olympic.



• Joe Watson — joined Kingsford.



• John Spanos — joined Kingsford.

The fee will be resolved by the appeals board.

Thomson's first team squad is:

GOALKEEPERS: Clint Gosling, Brett Hughes

DEFENDERS: Ean Rodriguez

gues, Robert Hooker, Jean Paul de Marigny, Steve O'Connor, Alex Robertson.

MIDFIELDERS: Graham Patterson, Tom McCullough, Abbas Saad, Murray Barnes

FORWARDS: Grant Lee, Frank Farina, Sean Ingham.

.....

STEVE SHORT JOINS HELLAS

South Melbourne Hellas last week appointed Slavia, Melbourne Croatia and Green Gully defender Steve Short (pictured) as assistant to new coach Brian Garvey and has signed striker Danny Wright from Brisbane Lions for \$15,000 and Socceroo midfielder Paul Wade from Brunswick Juventus for \$8000.

Garvey, the former Heidelberg coach, stepped up Wright before Melbourne club competitions for his signature.

Alan Davidson seems certain to leave Hellas while Socrates Kilianides has switched to Victorian League Division Two club Clifton Hill.

Garvey probably will cut his first team squad back to 16 or 17 players shortly.

Costa Theodopoulos from Green Gully, his brother Lou from Melbourne Hungaria and John Bitsonis from Caulfield hope to be part of the final squad.

Socceroo Ken Murphy and young midfielder Steve Tasiros still are recovering from knee injuries.

The South Melbourne Hellas first team squad is:

GOALKEEPERS: Peter Laumets, Con Giatas.

DEFENDERS: Bobby Russell, Steve Blair, Garry McDowell, Angie Postecoglou, John Bitsonis.

MIDFIELDERS: Carl Halford, Richard Miranda, Paul Wade, Ken Murphy, Steve Tasiros, Danny Craine.

FORWARDS: Charlie Egan, Stuart Stevenson, Danny Wright, Chris Andriola.

Wilson may come back

New Heidelberg coach Roy Maclarens has signed New Zealand international striker Andy Deeley from Gisborne City and former Kilmarnock striker Laurie McKenna from Victorian State League club Box Hill.

McKenna's transfer fee was \$7000.

Midfielder John Mihailides from Canberra has been training with Heidelberg recently and Maclarens will make up his mind shortly whether or not to sign him. Canberra has placed an \$11,000

price tag on Mihailides.

There's talk that striker Paul Wilson is keen to return from England. Wilson joined Heidelberg last year and showed that he could hold his head high at National League level. He left, presumably for good, at the end of the season but has had a change of heart.

Paul Tzintzis, who returned to Heidelberg last year on loan, is back in training at Heidelberg, determined to establish himself in the NSL. He'll be vying with Deeley, McKenna, Doug Brown and young John Anastasiadis, currently in New Zealand with the national youth team, for a forward berth.

Ian McKie also is back at Heidelberg but he's still trying to overcome an ankle operation.

Heidelberg first team squad is:

GOALKEEPERS: Jeff Oliver, Paul Forde.

DEFENDERS: Ian McKie, Alan Hines, Theo Selemidis, Chris Ketasidis, Steve Martley, Nick Ousakas, Joe Angele.

MIDFIELDERS: Mike Valentine, John Kanesoulis, Peter Tsolakis, Con Pappas.

FORWARDS: Andy Deeley, Laurie McKenna, Doug Brown, John Anastasiadis, Paul Tzintzis.



• Paul Wilson

Minh Tri Vo, James join JUST

Dragoslav Sekularac was expected to return from Yugoslavia this week to take over the coaching reins at Footscray JUST and end speculation over his plans for 1987.

Sekularac's return is almost certain to end the unrest among some players at JUST, principally Socceroo midfieler Ernie Tapai, who has been wood by at least five clubs.

Tapai has delayed negotiations with his suitors until he confirms whether or not Sekularac is returning.

Sekularac has told new JUST president George Marinovic that a top class striker from Yugoslav club Maribor will join JUST this season and the club already has signed defender Tyrone James from George Cross.

JUST has also signed former Vietnamese international midfieler Minh Tri Vo, after watching him in action in the Qantas World Cup competition held in Melbourne late last year.

Midfieler Vlado Stosic and defender Vojislav Vulcevic, who both played for JUST last year, have returned to Yugoslavia. Stosic is playing with a Second Division club there.

Veteran striker Zdravko Lujic has been conducting training in Sekularac's absence, readying the squad for its Buffalo Gold Cup Sorie.

Vlato Belic hasn't been sighted at training this year due to family commitments and there's some doubt about Belic playing in 1987.

The JUST first team squad is:

GOALKEEPERS: Zoran Nikitovic.

DEFENDERS: Ljubo Petrovski, Radovan Barjaktarevic, Tom Karic, Tyrone Jones.

MIDFIELDERS: Suleiman Curovic, Minh Tri Vo, Vlado Bozinovski, Ernie Tapai, Sasa Brkic.

FORWARDS: Bill Lazopoulos, ossie Latif, Warren Spink, Zravko



• Vlato Belic — family commitments have put his career in jeopardy.

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Sydney Olympic spends \$43,000

A new Yugoslav coach, a new home ground, the possibility of a merger with Canterbury Marrickville and \$43,000 worth of new players — Sydney Olympic really means business in 1987!

The new coach is Milan Lukic who reportedly took Ghana to the Montreal Olympics and Nigeria to the Moscow Olympics.

"Milan coached Cameroon to the 1982 World Cup Finals in Spain but two weeks before the finals he quit because he didn't receive a \$25,000 bonus promised him for getting the team to Spain," said Olympic president Tom Doumani.

"I'm really pleased with his appointment and all the players tell me that it's a joy to train under him."

Olympic will use St George Stadium as its home ground in 1987, an agreement that Doumani hopes will grow into a more permanent relationship, one which will see Olympic and St George combine their resources to develop the ground further.

Olympic has bought David Ratcliffe from St George for \$15,000, Emil Dragicevic from Sydney Croatia for \$8,000, Peter Kotamandis from Wollongong for \$3,000 and as we went to press, expected Sydney City Hakoah to agree to an \$18,000 transfer

fee for striker John Kosmina who has signed a contract with Olympic.

The other newcomer to the Olympic fold is defender Spiros Hatzis from Canterbury Marrickville.

"Canterbury had transfer listed Spiros at \$15,000 but we eventually got him on a free which speaks volumes for what is a new and exciting relationship between our two clubs, one which may see us merge by the end of this year," said Doumani.

Defenders Mike Coady and Marty Rogers have returned to England and it's highly unlikely that Olympic will bring them back to Australia while midfielder Stuart Johnston has been transfer listed at \$5,000 after asking for and receiving permission to talk to other clubs.

The Sydney Olympic first team squad is:

GK: Gary Meier, George Bouhoussos.

D: Emil Dragicevic, Tony Dakes, David Ratcliffe, Steve Georgiakakis, Emanuel Spanoudakis, Spiros Hatzis.

M: Vincenzo Estavillo, Peter Ras Kopoulos, Gary Phillips, Peter Katholos, Peter Kotamandis.

F: Marshall Soper, Terry Patalis, John Kosmina, Chris Kalantzis, Simon Brandt, Andy Zervas.

• Mike Coady



• David Ratcliffe

Ex-Vardar star for Makedonia

Midfielder Zoran Tasevski, 29, arrives within the next three weeks from Yugoslavia to bolster Preston Makedonia's bid for honors this season.

Vardar is a former Vardar player but if he's just half as good as the rave reviews given him by some Makedonia fans, he'll be a sensation in Australian soccer.

Vardar officials highly recommended the midfield maestro when they spoke to Makedonia officials during Vardar's Australian tour which ended last weekend.

Makedonia has signed Steve Jackson from Brisbane Lions for \$10,000, Steve Gojevic from Melbourne Croatia for \$22,500 and sole Sean Lane to Brunswick.

The Lane tale warrants reporting. I'm assured by my Makedonia spy that when a Makedonia official went to see Juventus team manager Joe Caruso to receive payment for Lane, he was greeted not with a cheque, not with part payment, but with \$30,000 in cash. The Makedonia official was so taken aback that when he left Caruso immediately phoned a couple of "heavies" to escort him to the nearest bank.

It seems that Juventus certainly doesn't muck about when it conducts its business.

Martin Woodall, the former Kidderminster defender who joined Makedonia last year is back in England and Makedonia won't be bringing him out here this year.

Makedonia chased South Melbourne Hellas star Charlie Egan and Croydon striker Andy Humble — to no avail — and wasn't given permission to talk to Adelaide Juventus striker for fear of losing him.

But coach Bill Murray is likely to bolster his attacking capabilities shortly.

As we went to press, Makedonia still was negotiating new contracts with Gary Cole and Graham Heys.

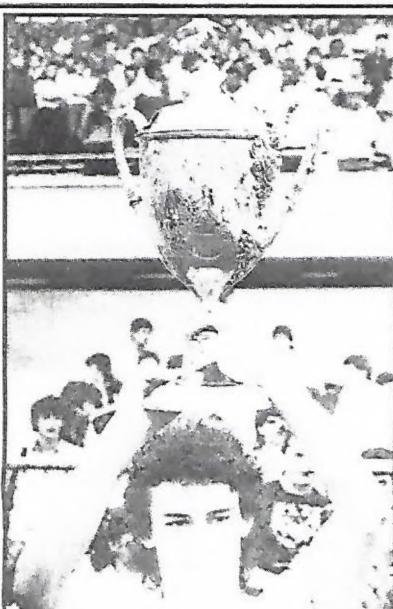
The Makedonia first team squad is:

GK: Phil Trainedes, Stuart Lee.

D: Mike McLean, Bill Pilevovski, Con Opanis, Ian Dobson, Steve Jackson, Ian Roodhouse.

M: Zoran Iljoski, Zoran Tasevski, George Silfkas, George Petrov, Ron Campbell, Steve Gojevic, Graham Heys, Nick van Egmond.

F: FORWARD: Steve Smith, Gary Cole.



• Steve Gojevic was a winner with Croatia. Can he repeat the dose with Makedonia?

MAXWELL JOINS MARCONI

Marconi rocked the NSL last week when it spent \$35,000 to sign Steve Maxwell (pictured) from Adelaide Juventus.

Socceroo striker Maxwell is getting married late this month and immediately after his wedding will fly to Sydney with his bride to join his new club.

Money certainly won't stand in the way of success this season as far as Marconi is concerned.

It also has signed Gerry Vieri from Sydney City Hakoah for \$22,000 and the arrival of the Marconi camp suggests that new coach Roberto Vieri is going to produce a very, very competitive outfit in 1987.

Marconi's other coup this year is the signing of classy midfielder Zlatko Nastevski who guested with NSW State League club Rockdale Ilinden last season. Nastevski returned from Yugoslavia last weekend.

So far the only loss from last year's first team squad is striker Roy Brown who has joined APIA.

Midfielder Peter Tredinnick now is a fully-fledged solicitor. The time-consuming nature of his profession means that, up until last week, Tredinnick hadn't been sighted at training but Marconi is hopeful that he'll return soon.

Marconi soccer secretary Keith Charles echoes the optimism surrounding the club at present.

"I think we'll have a big year and all the guys are absolutely delighted with Roberto Vieri," said Charles.

"Take Tony Henderson for example. 'Hendo' was very upset at being sent to the bench for most of last year and he wanted to join APIA. But Roberto wanted to retain 'Hendo'. When it came to talking over terms for a contract with chairman Tony Labozetta, 'Hendo' just walked into Tony's office and said that he couldn't care less about what terms were offered because he was that happy to play under Robert Vieri."

"That's typical of the sort of response we've had from the players to Roberto's appointment."

Marconi also has signed winger Alvaro Padamo from NSW State League club Auburn Uruguayan.

That will maintain the South American flavor in Marconi's play. Osvaldo El'Ali and Adrian Janin, who played with Marconi last year, have returned to Argentina. El'Ali contacted Marconi recently and wanted to return but unfortunately the club doesn't have a visa vacancy.

Nastevski and Padamo are temporary visa players and Marconi has been in touch with a midfeilder in Italy and hopes that he'll take up the remaining visa spot in the club.

The Marconi first team is:

GK: Bruce James, Paul Jones.

D: Paul Carter, Joe Rizzotto, Tony Henderson, Gerry Gomez, Lee Sterrey, Robert Wheatley.

M: Ian Gray, Geoff Gunning, Craig Mason, Peter

SIR —

Australia's new-look Socceroos have been showing continual improvement since being knocked out of last year's World Cup Finals.

After an initial set-back when the touring Czechs demoralised us, positive results against New Zealand and China have encouraged Frank Arora, national coach, to declare that we're the best team in Oceania and are on the right track for the Olympics in '88.

We might be the best team in Oceania but NZ is our only opposition and it is no power.

In fact it should be a push-over with our nation having four times more population and a superior national league.

But all too often we struggle to victory and our win-loss ratio in recent years against the Kiwis is nothing to write home about.

The rebuilding had to commence as soon as possible after the World Cup in full realisation that next time it would be South American opposition we had to beat in order to reach the finals.

Czechoslovakia arrived for our first preparatory series. It's now history that we failed miserably losing 3-0 and 1-0 before somehow salvaging a 1-1 draw. I earnestly believe that much more could be learnt from these losses than victory over the likes of NZ and China who are amateurs.

The series is a valuable yardstick on how the 'Roos compare to a real quality professional outfit. Like the Socceroos they were also rebuilding yet they still showed far superior ball skills, team play and imagination.

They didn't make the World Cup either, so our Socceroos have an incredibly difficult job ahead of them.

The daunting prospect of competing against real opposition like Chile, Peru or Paraguay who exemplify skillful and imaginative soccer as seen in past World Cups must make our preparation more urgent.

Arrok realises we need strong opposition and plenty of it. When considering opposition, thoughts of World Cup preparation should run parallel with the Olympic build-up, otherwise we might continue to beat the New Zealands and Chinas of the world but miss out on the all-important World Cup place once again when meeting real opposition.

— VLADY VLAVOVIC
Toorak, Victoria

TO THE EDITOR . . .

SIR —

Australia's new-look Socceroos have been showing continual improvement since being knocked out of last year's World Cup Finals.

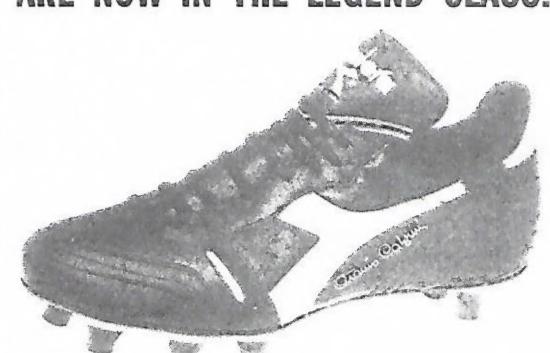
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YOU NAME HIM HE WEARS THEM

BOBBY RUSSELL — Winner of Rothmans medal

GARY McDOWALL — All Australian Socceroo

PAUL WADE — Another Socceroo

Zinni, Hunter, Postecoglou, Egan, the list goes on and on.

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THE VARDAR TOUR

FOOTSCRAY JUST 0 VARDAR
SKOPJE 6 (Savovski 14th & 35th, Petrov 38th, Babunski 56th, Najdovski pen. 89th), at Schintler Reserve. Crowd about 4000. Referee: Stuart Mellings 7.

FOOTSCRAY JUST Nikitova 6 (Ciric 7, half time) Stanjkovic 7 (Buzinovski 76th), Janevski 8 (Djordjevic 4, Petkovski 5, Kostamanidis 6, Obrazdovic 76th), Curovic 5 (White 70th), Djakovic 4, Spink 6 (Zezovski 80th) — Burlik 5, Lujic 5. Caretaker coach: Zdravko Lujic.

VARDAR SKOPJE Lazarov 6 (Grozev 6, half time) Stanjkovic 7 (Buzinovski 76th), Janevski 8 (Djordjevic 46th), Kostamanidis 7, Simonovski 7 (Trajevska 55th), Djordjevic 6 (Todorovski 56th), Babunski 8, Kanatlarovski 9, Savovski 8 (Anastasovski 70th) — Pancav 7, M. Petrov 7.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0 VARDAR
SKOPJE 1 (Pancev 37th) at Connor Reserve, crowd about 8000. Referee: Chris Bambridge 8.

MAKEDONIA Trajanedes 8 — McLennan 5 (Jackson 79th), Dobson 7, Ospinas 8, Illoski 5 — Stirkas 6, Petrov 5, Roodhouse 5, van Egmond 7 (Jankulovski 85th), Gojew 5 — Heys 8.

VARDAR SKOPJE Lazarov 7 (Grozev 7, half time) Stanjkovic 6, Najdovski 7 (inj sub Trajevska 5, half time), Djordjevic 6, Simonovski 7, Djordjevic 6 (Babunski 54th), Kanatlarovski 7, Avramovski 6 (Todorovski 60th), Savovski 6 — Pancav 8, Petrov 8, (Dimovski 79th).

VARDAR 2 (Pancev 51st, Banunski 81st) MARCONI 0 at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 12,000. Referee: Richard Lorenz 9.

VARDAR Lazarov 7 — Stanjkovic 8, Kanatlarovski 8, Janevski 7, Simonovski 7 (Babunski 73rd) — Lovric 6, Djordjevic 7, Djordjevic 7, Avramovski 7 (64th Trajevska 76th), Savovski 7 (Todorovski 75th, 7) — Petrov 6, Djordjevic 7.

MARCONI James 7 — Carter 7, Henderson 7, Sterrey 7, Markovski 7, (Rezzato 46th, 7) — Carbone 8 (James 75th), Gray 6, Gomez 8, Gunning 7 — Lowe 8, Maxwell 6.

VARDAR 3 (Karantralovski 34th, 80th, Janevski pen 63rd) WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA 0 at Berkley Sports Ground. Crowd: 3,300. Referee: Gary Power 9.

VARDAR Lazarov 7 (Grozev 46th, 7) — Stanjkovic 8, Simonovski 7 — Lovric 6 (Beznozki 76th), Kanatlarovski 8, Janevski 8 (Babunski 54th) — Djordjevic 6 (Todorovski 53rd, 8), Avramovski 7 (Rajcevski 56th), Savovski 7 (Dimovski 64th) — Dimovski 7, Petrov 7 (Banunski 70th).

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA Terpovski 7 (Krajacic 46th, 7) — Wright 7, Dafydd 7 (Savovski 46th, 7), Todorovski 7 (Bem 46th, 6), Ruskin 7 — Campbell 8, Mihoubi 8, Mathias 5, Giraldi 7 — Tilt 5, Gardiner 5.

VARDAR 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at St. George Stadium. Crowd: 12,745. Referee: Gary Power 9.

VARDAR Lazarov 8 — Stanjkovic 8, Kanatlarovski 8, Janevski 9, Simonovski 7 (sent off 62nd) — Lovric 6, Djordjevic 6, Simonovski 6 (46th Dimovski 7), Petrov 6 — Pancav 6.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC Meier 8 — Dragicevic 8, Ratcliffe 8, Dakos 8, Hantzis 8 — Kotsamanidis 5, Raskopoulos 7, Katholos 5, Patalis 5 (Estavillo 46th, 7) — Soper 6 (Kosmina 46th, 6), Kalantzis 7.

JUST'S NEW MEN FAIL TO FLATTER

Foot. JUST 0

Vardar 6

Venue: Schintler Reserve. Crowd: about 4,000. Referee: Stuart Mellings 7. Scorers: Djordjevic 7, Petrov 65th, Babunski pen, 76th, Najdovski pen, 89th.

Forget the result. Vardar wasn't all that great, and JUST, apart from having only half its usual team, started training only a week before the match.

What did matter was that JUST tried out midfielder Dean Milosevic from Brisbane City and Mehmet Durakovic from Juventus, and reintroduced Emil Petrov who had been back home to Yugoslavia for his national service stint.

All three were terrible, but you can forget that, as well. We all know Durakovic's ability and Petrov put in some useful games during when he was last at JUST, under the then coach, Cedo Cirkovic. He

could be a handy addition to the squad, but the acquisition of Durakovic depends on how much Juventus will ask for him.

Milosevic, who played for Newcastle-Rosebud (then KB United) before joining Brisbane City, is somewhat of an unknown quantity in Melbourne, and did not set the world on fire at his previous clubs.

Coach Dragosav Sekularac, however, is just the man to get the best out of Milosevic if he moves south.

JUST also wants to sign Luciano Fabrizio from Brisbane City. He is an outstanding talent and would fit perfectly into JUST's set-up.

Meanwhile, the following were unavailable against Vardar: Vlado Bozinovski, Bill Lazopoulos and Vietnamese recruit Minh Tri Vo, who were injured, Ossie Latifi who was holidaying in Cyprus, Er-

nie Tapai who had not signed a new contract, Tyrone James who had not returned from Britain and Vlatko Belic who, for the time being, is standing out of soccer for family reasons.

Caretaker JUST coach Zdravko Lujic shrugged off the result and preferred to talk about humorous aspects of the game.

"Pancev kept talking to our guys during the game, in our language, saying things like: How you going, mate, how's the family and: Nice weather you have in Australia. But when the ball came...WOOSH, he was gone, and our guys didn't know what was happening. What a player, mate!"

It was a profitable day for JUST, however, with about 4000 people contributing to the club's coffers at the turnstiles as well as the bar and canteen.

Well done, Marconi

Vardar 2
Marconi 0.
 Venue: Marconi Stadium
 Crowd: 11,200
 Referee: R. Lorenz 9
 Scorers: 51st Pancev,
 81st Babunski
 Caution: Gomez (M).

Marconi lost its opening

match of 1987 to the visiting Vardar but lost

none of its friends after one of the best ever displays by the local team.

For 50 minutes, Marconi held its own and had at least two good chances to surprise its opponent. Steve Maxwell, purchased from Adelaide Juventus, hammered a shot after only 10 minutes to see it sail wide. Then came David Lowe's opportunity midway through the first half.

Lowe was at the end of the best move by the local side for the entire 90 minutes. The ball quickly travelled across the park to find its way to Lowe who was only 10 metres away from goal and unmarked. Marconi's best player on the day must have been shocked to find so much space and only the goalie, but he hesitated and the chance was lost!

The visitors were able to control the match from then on and showed less enthusiasm to come forward. Marconi attacked, using Carter and Rizzotti on the flanks but with little

dar's captain, came close twice during the first half. He raced away from Gerry Gomez but found Marconi's diving keeper, Bruce James, hard to beat. There came an opportunity which Pancev should have converted. From some 16 metres he slammed one inches away from the upright line of 2-0 to Vardar.

Over 12,000 supporters flocked to Marconi Stadium for this match and none left the ground disappointed. It was well worth the entry fee and one can only wish to have more teams with such flair for entertainment coming to Australia to do battle with the locals.

The Vardar style of play seemed to rub off on the locals. Then again, it might have been new coach Robert Vieri who introduced this new style, for Marconi was no longer a robust, no-nonsense type of team, but used quick-passing and was a fast, attacking machine which gave Vardar some anxious moments.

Without Wheatley, Mason, Nastevski and Zrlic, Marconi still showed enough flair to suggest that this season will see fans flocking to Bosley Park.

The locals simply could

SIMONOVSKI AND NAJDOKSKI OFF

Vardar 0

Olympic 0

St George Stadium
 Crowd: 12,745
 Referee: G. Power 5

Scorers: Djordjevic 7, Lovric 7, Dragicevic, Ratcliffe, Estavillo (SOI)

Sent off: Simonovski 62nd

Najdovski 85th.

Sydney Olympic held Vardar at St. George Stadium to a 0 draw following an incident-packed second half which saw two Vardar players sent off, forcing the visitors to play with nine men for the last 25 minutes of the match.

Following a scuffle between John Kosmina and Najdovski in the 62nd minute, the referee flashed the red card to the visiting player, Gary Power, the referee, must surely have missed the whole of the incident for I believe that both players deserved the same punishment — if any at all.

Kosmina was fouled, retaliated, and this caused further retaliation by Najdovski. The ex-Australian captain walked away from the incident and became involved in a scuffle on the edge of the Vardar penalty area with other Vardar players.

The visitors were infuriated with the decision and seconds after the resumption of the match, Simonovski sent Kalantzis sprawling on the right flank with Kalantzis needing attention before resuming play. Simonovski was shown the red

card and there were no ifs and buts about this one.

Young Vardar players showed very little restraint during some five minutes following the incident and Olympic players replied, leading to some ugly scenes which threatened to stop the game.

With nine men left, Vardar seemed doomed to defeat.

But it wasn't to be.

Satisfied with the draw,

Olympic sat back and

thwarted the nine-man

team in the closing stages of the match.

Vardar showed enough initiative to cause concern during that period and David Pancev broke through two tackles in the 83rd minute to face Gary Meier. But referee Power blew his whistle to give Vardar a free kick some 30 metres from goal!

With a few minutes to go, Vardar broke through on the right flank and a long cross eluded all but Pancev who came back into the penalty area with the ball sent his shot wide of the far post!

A 0-0 draw was a fabulous result for the local side and it was achieved with some strong, disciplined and resolute play at the back with Emil Dragicevic showing good form in

the 38th minute left Djordjevic with a simple chance but the Vardar mid-fielder sent his effort wide of the post.

With a few goals from

Marshall Soper

showed some enthusiasm

during his 45-minute stay

on the park and his re-

placement, Kosmina, with

his vast experience, sug-

gested that Olympic had

found its targetman for

1987.

If anything, Olympic will

have trouble arranging its

midfield combination with

Peter Raskopoulos the only

certainty. Kotamanidis,

Katholos and Estavillo

were on show but only the

ex-Penarol star showed

class and the ability to

create.

With a little more zest in

midfield and far more cre-

ativity, Olympic could look

to a very successful season.

It was a powerhouse display from the visitors and Olympic could count its blessings for the 0-0 scoreline during this period. Vardar opened strongly in the second half and Pancev sent another weak effort wide of the post in the 54th minute before the scuffle broke out and spoiled what had been a fair and entertaining match.

And while Vardar was faster and far superior in skill, one should not forget the fine effort by the Olympic defence. Spiro Hantzis and Dragicevic were an inspiration and with Tony Dakos and Ratcliffe, looking good in the centre of defence, Olympic is assured of a successful back-line combination this year.

In attack Marshall Soper showed some enthusiasm during his 45-minute stay on the park and his replacement, Kosmina, with his vast experience, suggested that Olympic had found its targetman for 1987.

If anything, Olympic will have trouble arranging its midfield combination with Peter Raskopoulos the only certainty. Kotamanidis, Katholos and Estavillo were on show but only the ex-Penarol star showed class and the ability to create.

With a little more zest in

midfield and far more cre-

ativity, Olympic could look

to a very successful season.

— ALEX VESIC

Who's that little guy?

P. Makedonia 0

Vardar 1

Venue: Connor Reserve. Crowd: about 8000. Referee: Chris Bambridge 8.

Scorers: Pancev 37th.

With Gary Cole and

Steve Smith unavailable,

Makedonia used Graham Heys as the sole striker,

relying on Nick van Egmond to push up from

midfield in support. Van

Egmond tried hard and

showed more enterprise

than most, while Heys

zapped about with such

zip that defenders Ilija

Najdovski and Cedo Janevski were asking each

other: "Who is that little

guy?"

Steve Jackson, recruited from Brisbane Lions, was to have made his Makedonia debut in this match, but a leg injury prevented him from playing for more than the last 11 minutes.

Two players who did

look good, apart from

Hays and van Egmond, were

sweeper Con Ospasinius (bearded) and goalkeeper Phil Traianedes.

Vardar played at half

pace, having drawn 0-0

with Sydney Olympic in a

brutalling battle in Sydney

the previous night.

Against Marconi the

Macedonian visitors may

have been brilliant but, at

Connor Reserve, they

looked an average NSW

side due to tiredness. Not

even Darko Pancev was

able to shine, although he

did show a few flashes of

what one associates with

greatness.

"Welcome Vardar" was

painted on the grass in the

middle of the pitch, and

folk dancers, singers and

a band provided entertain-

ment for more than an hour before the match.

After 10 minutes of

play, Vardar goalkeeper

Lupco Lazarov raced off

his line to repel the ball in

front of Heys. In doing so,

Lazarov kicked the ball

straight back towards the

empty goal. Najdovski

chased it desperately and,

as the ball bounced off the

post, so did he, sending a

swarm of officials scamper-

ing onto the pitch fearing

he had perhaps broken a leg. Najdovski lobbied the ball into the goal and so Vardar missed its scoring flair.

Makedonia, surprisingly,

persevered with only one

goal down.

One of the most memora-

ble passages of play in-

volved Heys, who

received the ball without

assistance, and facing

four opponents. Somehow,

he managed to beat two of

them and hold off the

other two while waiting

for van Egmond to race

through the middle. Heys'

final cross, however, went

over van Egmond's head.

Similarly, George Petrov

made an amazing run through

the Vardar defences

and the ball was re-

launched to Ilioski and

Iloski launched a thunders-

drive which substitute

goalkeeper Grosev did well

to save.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

The game was ruined as

a spectacle because of the

spoiling tactics by the lo-

cal fans and, in the end, even

the visitors started to stum-

ble and fumble looking for

the way through this thick

forest of players.

However, with the locals

having at most times nine

or 10 of their players inside

their own penalty area it

hardly gave Vardar room

to move. Someone should

have told Makedonia that an \$8 entry fee does not

also mean that the match is

a kind of international

soccer.



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DEELEY AND MCKINNA GUNNING FOR GULLY

By JOHN MANGAN

Gus Macleod and his men are out to prove a point when Green Gully tackles Heidelberg in the opening game of the 1987 Buffalo Gold Cup on Friday night.

Green Gully was unceremoniously dumped from the National League last season and has to win this year's Victorian State League championship to

qualify for a place in the playoffs to decide promotion to the 1988 West End NSL.

The Gully-Heidelberg clash kicks off at 7.15pm, followed by the big battle between Juventus and Croatia.

After facing the agony of relegation, Gully immediately set to making good a comeback to

the highest echelons of the game in this country by taking the scalp of National Leaguers, Preston Makedonia, to win the Dockerty Cup at the end of last season. Nothing would now please Macleod's men more than a string of victories against the West End NSL teams in the Buffalo Gold Cup, beginning with Heidelberg.

Heidelberg will be keen to try out its new strikers — Kiwi international Andy Deeley, who scored against Australia in the game in Auckland last year, and Laurie McKenna, ex-Kilmarnock and last year playing with State League club Box Hill. The Buffalo Gold Cup games also give Paul Tzintzis a chance to establish himself in the Heidelberg team after a spell on loan to Oakleigh. Tzintzis, a coach, is a former Heidelberg striker.

For all Green Gully has to prove though, I just can't see it beating the class of the Heidelberg line-up especially if John Kanesoulis can get things moving in midfield.

Later on Friday night, Juventus does battle with Croatia in an all-NSL battle. This is a big season for Juve. Its South Australian counterpart Adelaide City-Juventus really threw down the gauntlet by taking last year's national title from the Brunswick club and the whole of Melbourne's Italian community will be counting on the black and whites bringing the championship back to the Garden State.

While it seems unlikely that Socceroo Alan Davidson's transfer will be resolved in time for Friday's game, Croatia does have a few more cards in its hand. Jimmy MacLean, its close-season, \$8,000 signing from Croydon, will line up in midfield, and fans will be hoping that MacLean's Croydon team-mate, Andy Humble, lines up beside Paul Lewis in

the Croatian front-line. It also remains to be seen whether or not Robbie Dunn, bought from Adelaide Hellas for in excess of \$20,000, will be available for Friday's game.

Juve's big money signing, Steve Egan, however, will be available for the game and if he can get an understanding going early with fellow striker Andrew Zinni this should be enough to swing the contest Juve's way.

Saturday night is an all-NSL night with the action beginning at 7.15pm when George Cross and Preston Makedonia take the stage at Olympic Park.

George Cross's strikeforce of Carl Glider and Andy Edwards should be more than a handful for the Makedonia defence but I think that this game will hinge on the midfield battle. Makedonia has pulled off one of the great feats of international football by defeating the ex-captains of Melbourne Croatia and JUST, Steve Gojovic and Zoran Iloski, and their

7.15pm, followed by Melbourne Croatia v Frankston Pines.

Friday, January 30
Heidelberg Alexander v Green Gully at 7.15pm, followed by Brunswick Juventus v Sunshine George Cross v Makedonia.

Saturday, February 1
Preston Croatia v St Albans Dinamo at 7.15pm, followed by Heidelberg v South Melbourne Hellas.

Wednesday, February 4
Croydon v Box Hill at 7.15pm, followed by Frankston Pines v St Albans Dinamo.

Wednesday, February 11
Green Gully v Croydon City at 7.15pm, followed by Brunswick United Juventus v St Albans Dinamo.

Friday, February 13
South Melbourne Hellas v

Box Hill at 7.15pm, followed by Sunshine George Cross v Makedonia.

Wednesday, February 14
Preston Makedonia v Frankston Pines at 7.15pm, followed by Footscray JUST v Heidelberg.

Wednesday, February 18
Heidelberg v Box Hill at 7.15pm, followed by Sunshine George Cross v Frankston Pines.

Friday, February 20
South Melbourne Hellas v Croydon City at 7.15pm, followed by Melbourne Croatia v St Albans Dinamo.

Saturday, February 21
Footscray JUST v Green

Gully at 7.15pm, followed by Brunswick Juventus v Preston Makedonia.

Wednesday, February 25
Footscray JUST v Box Hill at 7.15pm, followed by Brunswick Juventus v Frankston Pines.

Friday, February 27
Heidelberg v Croydon City at 7.15pm, followed by Preston Makedonia v Melbourne Croatia.

The semi-finals are on Wednesday, March 4 and the final is on Saturday, March 7.



© Laurie McKenna (right) in action for Box Hill. McKenna and Andy Deeley square up to Green Gully on Friday night.



• Paul Wade

experience will make all the difference.

The cavalcade of NSW stars continues on Saturday night when Footscray JUST lines up against South Melbourne Hellas. JUST looked very threatening at the end of last season and I can only see it picking up where it left off. There have been times when JUST seemed

like the poor relation of the Hellases and Alexanders of this world but with talent like Warren Spink and Ossie Latif, JUST can look to a fine season.

Hellas will be lining up with Paul Wade from Brunswick Juventus but all eyes will be on coach Brian Garvey's forward line. Will Garvey's \$15,000 signing from Brisbane Lions, Danny Wright, be up front with Charlie Egan breaking up his successful partnership with Stuart Stevenson or will Garvey follow in the instinct that at times last year saw his old club, Heidelberg, playing a three-man forward line? The time it takes to fine-tune the new Hellas line-up could be all JUST needs to take this game.

On Sunday night, the Buffalo Gold Cup focus turns to the State League with Croydon and Box Hill battling out the first game at 7.15pm and Frankston Pines taking on St Albans Dinamo afterwards.

Croydon, now under Jimmy Tansey's direction following Peter Ollerton's move to Mel-

bourne Croatia, will no doubt be missing the players Ollerton has taken with him, namely Maclean and Humble. But Jimmy Nelson from Springvale is Croydon's biggest signing so far in 1987 and is expected to make his debut here.

Croydon has a strong enough foundation to weather the attacks of a marauding Box Hill team even under the able captaincy of midfielder Andy Hughes.

The players at beleaguered Frankston Pines certainly have a lot to prove in their Sunday night game. Many of them may be show-casing their talents for the benefit of any club which can offer them a contract. Maybe St Albans Dinamo coach, Tony Vrzina, could be the man to tempt them away. He has already bought Goran Runje and Frank MacLeod from Pines.

If the Pines can get the cohesiveness of last year back again they should give their fans something to smile about again — at least for a while.

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It's time to gird loins and drop 'dinki-di' names



Straight Shooting

with PETER SCOTT

As we gird our loins for the start of another soccer season there are many aspects of the local scene which will keep minds exercised and tongues wagging during the coming months.

There are questions that need to be answered in administration and on the field of play.

Many will watch with huge interest the fortunes of last year's surprise packet, St George, which is seeking to revert to its former name of Budapest Sports Club. In this, its 30th anniversary year,

The mooted name change would be a desperate bid to regain some of the Hungarian support lost over the years, sacrificed on the altar of chasing the non-existent "dinky-di" followers.

The second main ground for disgruntlement among this famous club's followers was the almost singular lack of success in capturing big name players in recent years.

In spite of this, the red-white-and-green managed to finish in the upper echelons fairly consistently under Frank Arok's inspired guidance — not the least in 1986, when they were the surprise packets of the NSL in the "home straight".

Were it not for an abominable refereeing mistake in the Northern Division Grand Final, they may well have made it into the national play-offs instead of Sydney Olympic!

So what of 1987? There is an overall new look about the club, both on and off the pitch.

The staff under Arok has undergone a major overhaul, with Attilio Abonyi taking over Frank Lang's spot as the boss's top assistant, a Commercial Manager has been engaged and Arok has moved up a notch, into a position of overseeing many of the day-to-day tasks which were previously the personal responsibility.

As for the playing staff, Budapest could well have a team which is highly recognisable, with the emphasis very heavily on youth.

Whether the policy is a success or not is open to question, however, if the former turns out to be the case, then Arok and his club will have shown the way out of financial ruination or dependence on handouts by capricious supporters, which seem to be the lot of many of their rival clubs.

It is, therefore, in the interest of all of Australian soccer that Budapest SC succeeds in 1987!

Big spenders

Heading off on an opposite tack — it is America's Cup time, after all — is Sydney Olympic.

Almost always the bridesmaids, rarely the brides, has been their lot for decades, never more so than last season.

The comprehensive thrashing in the hands of Adelaide Juventus showed up all their weaknesses and shortcomings, which simply could not be compensated for through determination and burning ambition alone.

The time honoured ploy of opening the cheque book wide during the off season was the Greg club's chosen cure.

The big money buys of David Ratcliffe and former arch-egre John Kosmina, plus a reformation in the mercurial character of Marshall Soper are counted on as the answers to Greek soccer fans' prayers.

The last two are definitely major assets for Olympia — but there is a question mark over their long term value in view of their approaching veteran status.

But that should not be a problem this year.

As for Super, well, what can one say except acknowledge his immeasurable natural talent.

If only it could be coupled with some discipline, common sense and a willingness to pull for the whole team instead of just for himself, then I would share the hopes others place on the lanky striker.

Until then Soper can only be classified as one of the wayward talents of Australian soccer, impressive in flashes, but unable to make any impression in the longer term.

Bye, bye Arthur

Unless there is a big change of heart, 1987 is also the swansong of ASF President Sir Arthur George.

His announced intention to retire next year evoked mixed feelings among many of us.

Relief that a reign which has lasted much too long is finally coming to an end, and trepidation at what might follow.

The Greek tycoon's years and years as the undisputed ruler of the Australian scene were earmarked by grandiose plans and many, many promises which inevitably returned back to mediocrity and obscurity in administration time and again.

Team planning was confirmed to flashy snake oil salesmen who not only "knew" of soccer as a product, but had no real "feel" for it.

"In my opinion, this wonder-

—"

Arthur

There are plenty of head counters, politicians and the like, but no able and inspiring administrators and leaders among them.

Not even Charlie Perkins, whose heart might be in the right place, but whose temperament is not suited for the tasks ahead.

If one looks to find the biggest failure of Arthur George as ASF president it is this.

After all those years at the helm his activity seemed to concentrate on perpetuating his own position.

The mark of truly great leaders is their ability to recruit and train individuals who are suited and capable to succeed them on a moment's notice.

In this area Australian soccer is no better off now than it was a decade ago!

Quo vadis Hakoah

What of the future of Sydney City Hakoah, the greatest club this land has ever seen, or is ever likely to see, if sheer success is a measure of such things?

The answer is, nobody knows.

The Blues are in for another season, but the team is being killed by the death of a thousand cuts.

Lack of finance is cited as the reason for the uncertainty by the Board of Directors, reasonable enough, except for a few simple facts.

Soccer director Andrew Kemeny has stated that soccer expenditure makes up only six percent of the Hakoah club's total annual expenditure.

The Board constantly pontificates on the necessity of capturing some meaningful sponsorship, while at the same time failing absolutely sure that no such thing will eventuate, by refusing to nominate the club's continued existence beyond the end of each season.

In such circumstances how can one put a professional proposition to potential sponsors?

What support remains within Sydney's prosperous and growing Jewish community has been progressively alienated over the last few years through a number of deliberate measures.

The soccer section has for as long as one could remember been run as a one man dictatorship under various individuals, whose only responsibility was to the largely unelected Hakoah Club Board of Directors.

The one time the Soccer section was given free reign over the soccer section, they were summarily dismissed in mid-season, soon as they showed some signs of independent and progressive thinking.

Furthermore, guided by some misguided ghetto mentality, the club's Board has simply ignored the supporters' unanimously expressed plea at a properly constituted meeting to revert back to the traditional name of Hakoah, ditching the discredited, meaningless and totally unsuccessful Sydney City tag which was the brainchild of club president Frank Lowy and those of his supporters who don't believe in silly things like market research.

It has also been foreshadowed that Lowy will seek a "democratic" expression of club members' opinion during the course of this year as to whether Hakoah should continue in top line soccer.

The current Board's past record doesn't hold out much hope for any real measure of democracy in this little exercise.

When members previously tried to collect signatures for a democratic petition, seeking an extraordinary meeting of the club, they were refused access to the membership lists.

They were barred from putting their point of view forward in the club magazine financed out of their fees, they were prevented from collecting signatures on the club premises and were denigrated through a full page advertisement in the Jewish media in Sydney.

That kind of democracy is akin to the so-called "people's democracies" of this world and is completely foreign to the Australian way of doing things.

Whether 1987 will see a change of tactics and methods remains to be seen, but not many of the people who have great affection for and pride in Hakoah soccer are holding their breath.

In spite of all of the foregoing, opponents would make a grave mistake if they considered Hakoah a spent force in 1987.

Last year was evaluated as a failure, even though Eddie Thomson's boys won the Cup and reached the finals.

Many clubs would give their eye teeth for such failures!

Gomez is gone and his loss is a major one, but — rightly or wrongly — the club considers it did well out of John Kosmina's departure.

The former Socceroo skipper has served the Blues with great distinction, but was tipped to make his peak at an age of over 30.

A \$17,000 transfer fee in the hand this year was considered better than perhaps nothing in a year or two.

As for Joe Watson's semi-retirement to minor league soccer, it was long anticipated as he drew near the twilight of a distinguished career.

Gains include Clint Gosling's arrival from Newcastle, filling the second goalie's spot in the squad, lack of which costs the team its sudden death match against Marconi in last

—'s finals.

Experienced Novocastrian's con-

—member one spot with young prod-

—ucts would be worth going a long

—way.

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Here comes the State Bank Challenge Cup!

sport in their winter line congratulated the Bank on its foresight. He is boost to the sport. competition which

started last Saturday comprised six National League clubs and 14 State League clubs. The State Bank Cup is scheduled for March 8.

The State Bank League will start on March 14 and will be played in Newcastle, Canberra, Wollongong, Queanbeyan and

Sydney. The winner of the State Bank League will go into the National League next year.

The NSW team will wear the State Bank emblem on its shirts in the interstate competition.

ING MATCHES

JURRY 6 vs Sydney City at St George B.S.C. vs Newcastle.

JURRY 7 Warrington F/Water at St George vs Ku-Ring-Gai at

JURRY 8 Sutherland Shire at Bruce Park vs Canberra City at Blacktown City at Cro-

ati S/C, 6.45pm Sydney Croatia vs Wollongong City at Croatian S/C.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

6.15pm Uruguayan Auburn vs Melita Eagles at St George Stadium, 8.00pm St. George B.S.C. vs Sydney City at St. George Stadium.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

7.00pm Australian Rosebud vs Uruguayan Auburn at Adamstown Oval.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

4.00pm Inter Monaro vs Canberra City at Bruce Stadium, 5.00pm Canterbury vs Warrington F/Water at Cromer Park.

George Stadium; 6.45pm Melita Eagles vs Sydney City at St. George Stadium.

4.00pm Wollongong Mac vs Blacktown City at Gabbie Stadium; 5.45pm Rockdale Ilinden vs Wollongong City at Gabbie Stadium.

4.00pm Manly Warringah vs Ku-Ring-Gai at Cromer Park; 5.45pm APIA Leichhardt vs Warringah F/Water at Cromer Park.

QUARTER-FINALS: Saturday, February 21; Sunday, February 22.

SEM-FINALS: Saturday, February 28; Sunday, March 1.

FINAL: Sunday March 8.

ALL THE MATCH DETAILS

GROUP ONE: APIA Leichhardt, Marconi, Ku-Ring-Gai, Manly Warringah, Freshwater.

GROUP TWO: Canterbury-Marrickville, Canberra City, Inter Monaro, Sydney Olympic, Sutherland.

GROUP THREE: Wollongong City, Wollongong Macedonia, Sydney Croatica, Blacktown, Rockdale Ilinden.

GROUP FOUR: Auburn Uruguayan, Sydney Hakoah, St George, Newcastle Rosebud, Melita Eagles.

WOLLONGONG CITY 3 (Brodnik 8th, 15th, Easthorpe 8th) WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA 0 at Croatian Sports Centre. Referee: N. Zantos. Crowd: 3,000.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Young 7, — Skeen 7, Dmeric 6 (D'Onise 65th), — (Easthorpe 60th), — (Makar 7), Arcosa 6, Pupovac 7, Caglioni 7, Coakley 7 — Brodnik 8, Stefanovski 7 (WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Terzioski 7 (Milenković 75th) — Wright 6, Ruskin 7, Campbell 6, Sweeney 6 — Muhlbauer 7 (Lirsa 82nd), Barni 6, Najdovski 6, Dalovski 6 — Tilt 5, Giraldi 6

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (Zervas 33rd, Estavillo 40th, Katholos 53rd) INTER MONARO 0 at St George Stadium. Referee: G. Porter. Crowd: 3,500.

CROATIA: Meier 7 (Londos 53rd), Hantzis 7, Rascille 8, Dakos 8, Spanoudakis 6 (Georgakis 53rd, 6), — (Kotamidis 7), Estavillo 9, Katholos 8, Patalis 6 — Zervas 7, Kalantzis 5 (Osturbasidis 56th).

INTER MONARO: Chicco 6 — Arthur 6 (Withee 62nd), Titus 8, Gagetti 6, Williams 6 — Borella 5, Ambrosino 7, Martiniello 5, Fiorese 5 (Felizi 56th, 5), Fernandez 7, Perinovic 6

CROATIA 3 (Jones 31st, 74th, Lamond 78th) ROCKDALE ILINDEN 0 at Croatian Sports Centre. Referee: Ken Kotsias. Crowd: 3,000.

CROATIA: Franks 6 (Woodhouse 41st, 71st, 74th, 78th), Vlietstra 7, Roic 7, Jennings 7 — Slater 8, Clinch 7, Savor 7, Lamond 7 — Arnold 7, Jones 8

ILINDEN: Berry 6 — Mirkovic 6, J. Wilson 7, Pilovski 8, D. Wilson 7 — Zirak 6, Nastevski 7, Ristevski 6, Rodas 7 — Genovesi 5, Spirouki 5

APIA 3 (Parsons 65th, R. Brown 68th, Mills 75th) KU-RING-GAI 0 at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 980.

APIA: Pezzano 8 — Bozanic (27th Brady 7), Yankos 8, Bertogna 8, M. Brown 8 — Butler 8, Masi 9, Lovell 8, Batten 8, — Brown 6, Parson 7, Ku-Ring-Gai 8, Lacy 8, — Watson 8, Pepper 6, Pearce 5 — Sutherland 7, Bell 8, — (Dunn 67th), Ferguson 6 (41st Williamson, 6), Quigley 6 — Bass 5, Nile 6

MARCONI 3 (Henderson 14th, 29th, Gomez 73rd) MANLY WARRINGAH 1 (Cimarosti 13th) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 980.

MARCONI: James 6 (41st Jones, 7) — Carter 6, Kovacs 6 (Rizzotto 40th, 7) — Pedromo 6, Gray 6, Gomez 9, Lowe 8 — Jankovic 6, Gunning 7

MANLY: Dean 8 (53rd Watson, 6) — Dennis 6, Pearce 6, Williams 6, — (Sestanovic 15th, Dunne, 6) — Manning 7, Etherington 7, Carrick 6, Butler 5 — Cimarosti 5, Lester 6 (Ljungqvist 55th, 6)

ST GEORGE 3 (Cotton 4th, Meacock 66th, Kotsias 75th) AUBURN URUGUAY 0 at St George Stadium. Referee: Ken Small 7.

ST GEORGE: Gibson 6 — Hughes 5, Owens 7, Lambropoulos 6, Slavesci 8 — Pottier 6, Porter 8, Ricoy 7 (Kotsias 50th, 6) — Cotton 7 (Gribeski 58th, 6), — (Fitzgerald 6), — (Whitchurch 7), Harrison 6, Roberts 5, Acosta 5 — Nicholson 5, Hamilton 6, Murrell 5 (Ortega 70th), Bowen 5 — Rowney 7, Gascoigne 5

MELITA EAGLES 6 (Foxmen 8th, 39th, Wilson 31st, Sertbas pen, 33rd, Brodin 75th, Lamond 78th) NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD 0 at St George Stadium. Referee: M. Louis 8.

MELITA: Pupovac 7 — Cabasi 7, Lomas 7, Griffiths 8 — Wilson 9 — Callanan 8, Farmsworth 8, Wellburn 8, Serbas 6 (Meerban 59th) — Brown 7, Ferguson 8 (Dalton 70th)

NEWCASTLE: Kelly 6 — Whitchurch 5, Harrison 6, Roberts 5, Acosta 5 — Nicholson 5, Hamilton 6, Murrell 5 (Ortega 70th), Bowen 5 — Rowney 7, Gascoigne 5

ST GEORGE 3 (Cotton 4th, Meacock 66th, Kotsias 75th) AUBURN URUGUAY 0 at St George Stadium. Referee: Ken Small 7.

ST GEORGE: Gibson 6 — Hughes 5, Owens 7, Lambropoulos 6, Slavesci 8 — Pottier 6, Porter 8, Ricoy 7 (Kotsias 50th, 6) — Cotton 7 (Gribeski 58th, 6), Meacock 6, Fletcher 5

URUGUAY: A Rosano 6 — Woods 6, Krslovic 6, Donnell 7, Tomasic 7 — Mosquero 5, Peulic 6, Cuba 6, Hasan 5 (Benitez 70th) — Polakans 5 (Varvel 41st, 7), Genc 8

STATE BANK CHALLENGE CUP



STATE BANK CHALLENGE CUP

SATURDAY JAN 31 — MARCONI STADIUM
5pm FRESHWATER vs KU-RING-GAI
6.45 MARCONI vs APIA

SATURDAY JAN 31 — ST GEORGE STADIUM
5pm HAKOAH vs NEWCASTLE
6.45 ST GEORGE vs MELITA EAGLES

SUNDAY FEB 1 — ST GEORGE STADIUM
5pm SUTHERLAND vs CANBERRA CITY
6.45 SYD OLYMPIC vs CANTERBURY

SUNDAY FEB 1 — CROATIAN SPORTS CENTRE
5pm BLACKTOWN CITY vs WOLLONGONG CITY
6.45 CROATIA vs WOLL. MACEDONIA

its looked pale and Auburn Uruguay's imagination. Roy Cotton, Kenny Reid and Stewart Porter were the only sparks in a match best forgotten in a

on scored the opening goal and was at

zing best in the first 45 minutes, but

replaced in the 58th

end, goals by newcomer Kevin Mei-

and Tony Katicas decided the issue

the second period which saw Uruguay

with more conviction

Genc, Uruguay's best player, missed

an opportunity in the 23rd minute of

match which could have swung the game

way.

only saving grace for this pale Saints

not on show. Mike O'Shea, Terry

Mike Bogard, Andy Kocza, Scott

Shaw and Peter Petkovic are yet to

an appearance in the State Bank Chal-

Cup.

without much idea and relying on

strength of individual players, Auburn

will be in for a tough season in this

State League competition.

APIA 3 KU-RING-GAI 0

Marconi Stadium.

Scorers: Parsons 65th, R. Brown 68th, 75th.

APIA Leichhardt struggled during

the opening period of its first round

match against Kuringai, but took con-

midway through the second half

before three goals in 10 minutes.

destroyer was Ricardo Masi, APIA's

leader who had a hand in all three goals.

and Parson, in the 65th, who had little

beating Lacey. Three minutes later

shot by Masi was partly stopped by

Rod and Brown raced in to score

first, while Butler, with five minutes

remaining, found Mass who completed

win by APIA by scoring with ease.

APIA's win could have been far more

convincing if Andrew Face had not been

in goal in the first half, then stubbornly denied

for some 25 minutes in the second half,

was only supported by Watson with

putting in a useful performance.

Yankos, APIA's expensive signing

Adelaide City, was on show but with

Mani and Mark Brown in attendance,

APIA was hardly the team to give these

any trouble at all.

David Skeen, back at Wollongong after

being rejected at St George for 1987, showed

that he will be an asset to John Fleming this

season.

Croatia 3 Rockdale Ilinden 0

At: Croatian Sports Centre.

Scorers: Jones 31st, 74th, Lamond 78th.

Wollongong City asserted its superiority over its arch rival early in the piece with Pat Brodnik scoring two goals in the space of seven minutes, then cruised past its opponent to win by a comfortable three goal margin.

Despite dropping a gear during the second period, Wollongong City, well led by its Uruguayan import Arcosa, never allowed Macedonia an inch of breathing space and created numerous opportunities to score.

Macedonia, recent losers to Vardar by a mere three goals, showed unusual lack of dedication in defence, despite the presence of Ruskin, Sweeney and Muhlbauer, while its front runners, Bruce Tilt and Robert Giraldi hardly saw an opportunity. Giraldi worked hard and was by far Macedonia's best player but was far from little support.

Randall Easthorpe, the lanky striker from Wollongong came on for Ainsworth late in the game and showed once again his ability to score. Stevanoski broke through in the dying seconds of the game to find Easthorpe close to the line and Milenković, on the park as a late replacement for Terzioski, (release from Croatia, not cleared by the NSL).

But fears were all forgotten with seven

minutes before half time as Peter Katholos

slung a left foot cross from near the touchline to let Andrew Zervas head past Chicco

for the opening goal.

Vicente Estavillo, Olympic's best player

on the day made it 2-0 on the stroke of half time with a superb right foot drive from

some 25 metres and as far as Inter was concerned it was game-set and match to

be decided.

Sure, Fernandez hit the post in the 52nd,

but that was a solitary effort that could have resulted in a goal, hardly enough to shake this highly confident Olympic side.

Peter Katholos and Vicente Estavillo ex-

changed passes in the 53rd for Katholos to

make it 3-0, and with Zervas missing a couple of sitters and Patalis close to goal on another couple of occasions there was never any doubt as to the final outcome.

Olympic was as confident as ever and the

absence of its star players was hardly no-

tice. Ratcliffe and Dakos were in full com-

mand at the back, Katholos, Estavillo and

Kotamidis in the middle of the park and,

with the exception of out of touch Kalandis,

the others looked capable of scoring at any

time.

Milan Lukic, its new coach, was beaming

with delight at the end of the match, but not

so president Tom Doomanis, who was fur-

ious at the hold-up in John Kosmin's move

from Sydney Hakoah and slammed Hakoah

over its attitude.

Manis Lamond closed the scoring in the

last minute of the match with a well-executed goal.

RICOH CAMERAS

Proud to sponsor THE 1987 DOCKERTY CUP

Macleod, Runje to Dynamo, Flavell to Polonia, Pines in the wars

Things are looking grim for Frankston Pines in 1987.

After finishing a creditable second last season and having striker Ally Dick win the Bill Fleming and Rothmans Medals they have now had their feet taken from under them by the closure of their social club.

Complaints from the Liquor Control Commission about the club selling alcohol led to the council threatening to quarantine the club building and take away its lease. The loss of income from the closure is having a crippling effect on Pines.

Committeeman Bob Waugh said that until Pines get their liquor licence they will be unable to offer contracts to any of their players.



• JOHN MANGAN brings you up to date on all the news and views from eight of Victoria's State League clubs. Next week he'll look at the other clubs in Victorian soccer's premier competition.

happy with the way things are progressing at St. Albans Dynamo and has signed on for another year as coach.

He is full of praise for his hard-working committee which has put Dynamo where all clubs would like to be — in the black.

Waugh thinks that with gritty determination the Pines will make something of the year but he adds: "We certainly no longer have dreams of winning the league."

Macleod, Runje join Dynamo

Tony Vrzina is very

the end of the season," said Gully coach Gus Macleod, "and we will be standing by them this year."

However, George Campbell and Costa Theodosopoulos look likely to move. Theodosopoulos currently is training with South Melbourne Hellas.

Coach Macleod hasn't bought any new players but plans instead to strengthen his first team squad with players coming up through the club's junior ranks. He has five youth players training with the first team squad — Dave Deacon, David Pace, Charlie Sant and Frank Spiteri — as well as John Kadlicek who established himself in the seniors last year.

The team has been training since mid-December and contracts for the coming season should be finalised this week.

AIS a first for State League

The inclusion this year of the Australian Institute of Sport team is a first for the Buffalo State League.

The Canberra-based AIS squad, which consists totally of Australian youth internationals and soon-to-be internationals, will not earn a single point in State League no matter how many games they win or draw.

Although the AIS will play a complete program of State League fixtures, no points will be awarded for its games, to either team, so they will, in effect, be friendlies. The State League clubs have the option whether to play the AIS in Canberra or at their own home grounds.

Already, a number of the Victorian clubs have expressed interest in travelling to Canberra for some games.

The AIS currently is organising sponsorship for the games which will be played at Bruce Stadium on Saturday nights. The institute hopes to be able to cover travelling expenses and provide some prize-money for each match.

A major concern for the Victorian Soccer Federation is that the AIS games might be taken too lightly by the other clubs. Are coaches prepared to risk players getting injured in matches which don't gain them any points? It is crucial to the AIS team's development that games are taken seriously by the Victorian clubs and match sponsorship hopefully will contribute toward this end.

Ron Smith has taken

who make up the AIS squad, all between the ages of 15 and 19. Four of his players — Alex Cummings, Jason Polak, John Koch and Alastair Edwards — are on their way back from New Zealand with the Australian team after playing in the Oceania World Youth Cup qualifying series.

The AIS last year won the National Youth League championship, beating George Cross 3-0 in the final and Smith says that when the team becomes established in State League he hopes that it will be able to draw crowds of 6,000 to 7,000 to Bruce Stadium.

The main target of the AIS is not to win the competition, but to provide as much experience as possible for the whole of its 17-strong squad. This means players will be rotated constantly.

Smith also hopes to get the team involved in a mid-week competition with clubs from the ACT Federation. This will enable every player to get a game each week.

The AIS has facilities that would make most clubs in Australia green with envy. The \$4 million soccer complex has a full-size, floodlit, synthetic pitch, a quarter-size indoor synthetic pitch and is a short pass away from Bruce Stadium itself.

Nine players have been retained from last year. The squad is: David Mowat, Peter Gunning, David Healy, Alex Cummings, Craig Foster, Paul Foster, Jason Polak, John Koch, Gareth Naven, Alan Ridell, Greg Mills, Dean Nicolaou, Paul Welch, John Gibson, Doug Marcina, Alastair Edwards and Steven Horvat.

Hackett, Flaherty on the move?

Thomastown had a very late close to last season when it beat Bulleen in the final of the Coppa Italia. Consequently, it has recently returned to training.

Coach Mike Lynn is hoping to re-unite former Morwell Falcons striking duo Russell Athrysych and Bobby McGuinness. The club currently is negotiating with Western Suburbs for McGuinness's release. It has agreed terms with Springvale for Athrysych but needs a clearance from the Department of Immigration before the deal can go ahead.

No Thomastown players have officially asked to be



• Frank Macleod — switched from Frankston Pines to St. Albans Dynamo.

don from fellow Socceroo Peter Ollerton who was looking for a change this year and is assisting Terry Hennessy at Melbourne Croatia.

Tansey emphasises, however, that this season it will be essential for Croydon to "try to cut costs and live within our means."

This will mean cultivating the club's young talent. An example is Darren Cooper who has come up this year from the reserves.

"If he puts his head down and works hard the lad will have a bright future in front of him," said Tansey.

Both Jimmy MacLean and Andy Humble are moving to Melbourne Croatia.

Tansey has secured the services of Jimmy Nelson from Springvale for \$2,000 and young Mooroolbark player, Greg Brack, is keen to move to Croydon this season.

Golkeeper Peter Blasby is training with the team but has not yet decided whether to play this season, though Tansey is hopeful that the big-match atmosphere of the Buffalo Gold Cup will make up his mind for him.

Off the field, the club is looking at building a complex behind the Dorset Gardens Hotel in the near future.

Lakic to switch from Bulleen?

Polonia started its pre-season training two weeks ago but already coach Miron Bleiberg is in high spirits.

"The main change this year is that at the end of the season Polonia will be in a higher position than it was last year," said Bleiberg.

Polonia was battling to avoid relegation for most of last season so Bleiberg's prediction for 1987 certainly isn't overly optimistic.

Over the close-season, Bleiberg has dipped into the transfer market, picking up Gordon Flavell from Fawkner for \$4,000 and Kees Storm from Ringwood Wilhelmina. Storm had completed his contract there.

Also training with Polonia are Brendan Lakic from Bulleen and John Kostopoulos from Port Melbourne. However, the first team squad will not be



• Gordon Flavell — switched from Fawkner to Polonia

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Stars sidelined but Juventus still too good for Campbelltown

AMPOL

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AMPOL CUP with ALLAN CRISP

TIMAR DENIES PARA HILLS

Adelaide Croatia was six minutes away from defeat when substitute Frank Timar nodded home a goal to level at 2-2 with Para Hills in their Ampol Cup pipeline last week.

Barry Crook, younger brother of former Socceroo goalkeeper Martin Crook, gave Para the lead in the 25th minute, but ex-Para midfielder Chris Todd cancelled out that advantage three minutes before half time.

Crook restored Para's dominance a minute after the interval before Timar's timely goal kept Croatia in the race for a semi-final berth.

New Croatia coach Johnny Nyskohus could not name his squad until two and a half hours before the kick-off because until then he had four players who had not signed for the new season.

Robert Marwé and Mike Barnett registered late, but Peter Rankin and Lemmy Vatsilas did not sign and joined last year's colleagues, Glenn Dods and Steve Hutchins on the sidelines.

Croatia also welcome back experienced back-boots (knee operation) and Zoran Marić, who has joined his honeymoon.

The bright spots for Nyskohus, who coached Beograd last season, were the fine form of new signings: Chris Todd and full-back Quenton Watkins, who joined Croatia from Second Division club Brighton City.

Para coach Barry Simpson was delighted with the debut of 17-year-old goalkeeper Chris Higgins and the sharpshooting of Barry Crook.



• Socrates Nicolaides in action for his former club, South Melbourne Hellas. Now Nicolaides is player-coach of Clifton Hill.

Socrates Nicolaides joins Clifton Hill

Socrates Nicolaides is the new player-coach of Victorian League Second Division club Clifton Hill.

Nicolaides was appointed last week and has transferred from South Melbourne Hellas for \$3,000.

The 19-year-old played his first senior game with Hellas when he was 15 and this is his first senior coaching appointment.

Nicolaides is on the lookout for players and can be contacted during business hours on 663 5030.



DIAMATARIS AVAILABLE

Striker Phil Diamataris has his sights set on the Victorian State League this year and there's only \$600 on his head.

Diamataris, 26, has represented Victoria at youth level. At club level he has played with Port Melbourne, Melbourne, Western Suburbs,

National League champion Adelaide Juventus won its opening Ampol Cup clash with Rothmans League champion Campbelltown City despite the absence of five stars through injury and the loss of Steve Maxwell.

Aurelio Vidmar grabbed the vital goal four minutes after half time (the night series is restricted to 40 minutes each half) to boost Juventus' hopes of retaining the trophy it won last summer.

Juventus took the field without walking wounded, Sergio Mella, Joe Mullen, Buggy Nyskohus, Neville

REMAINING GAMES

GROUP A: Adelaide Juventus, Campbelltown City, Beograd, Salisbury United.

GROUP B: Adelaide Hellas, Croatia, Polonia, Para Hills.

Remaining games:

January 28: Beograd v Salisbury United; Adelaide

Hellas v Polonia.

February 4: Polonia v Croatia; Salisbury United v Adelaide Juventus.

February 11: Campbelltown City v Beograd; Para Hills v Adelaide Hellas.

February 18: Polonia v Para Hills; Beograd v Ade-

Roque Barbero and Tim Mulien, brother of Joe, and promoted Joe Posani, Phil Scardigno and Paul Elliot.

Campbelltown, known as the Devils in SA, fielded returning players, Nick Webb, Mark Halliday and Paul Beltrame in its new look line-up.

The Devils pushed Juventus hard and far and performed a great service to the West End NSL side by demonstrating that unless Juventus touts out its best line-up in the remaining minor round games it will not win the Ampol Cup this year.

MATCH DETAILS

CROATIA 2 (Todd 37th, Timar 74th) PARS 0 (Crook 25th & 41st) at Hindmarsh Stadium (double-header). Crowd: 2500. Caution: Paul Blute (Croatia).

Referee: Tony Martell 8.

CROATIA: Siklich 5, Watkins 7, Stepic 6, Barnett 8, Slager 8, Pankhurst 8, Tanjic 6 (Timar 56th), P. Blute 6, Todd 8, Blazinic 6 (J. Blazic 66th). Coach: Johnny Nyskohus.

PARS: M. Blute 7, Higgins 8, Radford 6 (Clarke 68th), Edwards 7, Horan 8, Leembrugge 6, Cole 7, Dawson 8 (Conway 68th), Klein 7, T. Blute 6, Crook 8. Coach: Barry Simpson.

ADELAIDE CITY 1 JUVENTUS 0 (Vidmar 44th) CAMPBELLTOWN CITY 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium (double-header). Caution: Beltrame, Webb (Campbelltown). Referee: Jim Ross 8.

ADELAIDE CITY: JUVENTUS: Mihaly 8, Shillabeer 8, G. Higgins 7, Tonello 6, Bell 7, Posani 7, Vassallo 7, Strnac 8, T. Mullen 7, Scardigno 6, Nidle 8, Vassallo 8. Caretaker coach: John Perin.

CAMPBELLTOWN CITY: R. Parks 8, Parsons 7, Richardson 6, Guwerker 7, Gabbara 7, Amos 7, Beltrame 7, Haliday 7. Coach: David Jenkins.

Vatsilas, Croatia are in dispute

Dynamic wing-striker Lemmy Vatsilas is in dispute with Adelaide Croatia and is seeking a clearance.

Vatsilas said he had hoped to resume with Croatia in the Ampol Cup game against Para Hills last week but he had been unable to agree on terms for the new season.

"I have overcome my back injury and I'm ready to listen to any club that wants me," Vatsilas said.

"If I don't settle with a local club I'd like to try my luck in Melbourne and try to make the grade at National League level."

Vatsilas said his long-term ambition was to play professional soccer in Greece.

Peter Rankin, who finished the 1986 league season equal top goalscorer with 13 goals, also has a contract problem, but is expected to sign for Croatia this week.

Meanwhile, former Socceroo goalkeeper Marty Crook is being wooed by Beograd and his club Adelaide Hellas has given him permission to negotiate terms for a transfer.

In other news, Modbury central defender Phil Mullen has signed for West Torrens Birkdale.

Former Australian International, SA and Adelaide Juventus striker Eric Norman has been appointed coach of amateur club Salisbury Inter.

Norman will start full-scale pre-season training at Underdown Park on January 29.

— ALLAN CRISP

North set for Geelong Cup

The cream of Geelong's talent began the battle last Wednesday for the 1987 Geelong Advertiser Cup.

The Cup carries \$2,000 in prize money as well as a Player of the Tournament award donated by Cobber's Car Yard which includes \$200 worth of sports equipment and a trophy.

This year the tournament is being hosted by the recently amalgamated Corio-Geelong Club at its Hume Reserve ground, Bell Park and North Geelong — winners for the last two years — are favorites to lift the Cup. North Geelong have been quick to seize the initiative by beating Bell Park in the competition's opening game last week.

The Cup's underdogs are Bronto and WVSAs.

The WVSAs players, drawn from the local Western Victoria Soccer Association, always have a lot to prove to their fellow players in the Victorian and Provisional League teams but have yet to progress to the finals.

Bronto, recently promoted from the Amateur League to the Provincial League, is competing in the Geelong Advertiser Cup for the first time and has the amalgamation of Corio and Geelong United to thank

for the gap in the draw that allowed its inclusion.

At the top of the draw has brought WVSAs and Bronto together in Group A with Hamlyn Rangers and Corio-Geelong United while Group B contains Geelong, East Geelong and the favorites, Bell Park and North Geelong. Each of the Group B teams has previously won the series.

The Cup, which is sponsored by local newspaper 'The Geelong Advertiser', is being played before the clubs' league seasons begin with each game being played over two 30-minute halves.

On the same night as North's slender victory over Bell Park, Corio-Geelong United was very lucky to get out of its match with Bronto with a draw when Milorad Gelic scored in the third last minute to level the scores at 1-1.

In other games, East Geelong and Geelong played out a 1-1 draw and Hamlyn Rangers were just too strong for WVSAs, beating it 1-0 and having a penalty saved in the dying minutes of the game by goalie Ismail Ali.

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Want to be a referee?

The Western Branch of the Australian division of the Australian Referees' Federation is once again running its school for prospective referees.

The course, which involves two-hour sessions over 10 consecutive Tuesday nights, is ideal for coaches, players and club officials who would like to referee or even just broaden their knowledge of the game. The school is open to anyone, male or female, over the age of 14, and will be held this year in the Maribyrnong area, starting Tuesday, February 3.

Nine new referees graduated from the course when it was run last year and they contributed to the 98.8% coverage of games organised by the Western Branch referees last season.

Although applications for the course are handled principally through the Western Branch, further details can be obtained by calling the Western Branch

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Let's hope the format for national league will work this time.



PAUL MOON profiles three of the superstars of world soccer



• The great Dane himself — Michael Laudrup (right) — about to streak clear of Scotland stopper Alex McLeish.

Simonsen stopped Laudrop from joining Barcelona

SPANISH FOOTBALL FAR TOO ROUGH

If any young player could be said to have the world at his feet, that player surely is Michael Laudrup.

Soon to turn 23 and already established as a world-class striker, he can, barring some hideous quirk of fate, look forward to ever continuing glory with both his club, Juventus, and his country, Denmark.

Laudrup was groomed for stardom almost from the moment of his birth on June 15, 1964, at the ancient Danish city of Frederiksberg by his father Finn Laudrup.

Finn, a former interna-

tional himself, did not quit playing until 1982 (when 36), by which time Michael had already won himself a considerable reputation in the junior teams of Værløse, Brondby and KB Copenhagen.

Michael made his Danish First Division debut for KB Copenhagen when 17, but immediately returned to Brondby upon Finn being appointed coach there. Within a year he had acquired a first full international cap — won against Norway on his 18th birthday.

"There is far too much kicking in Spanish football,

Finn. Don't let your son join Barcelona," said Simonsen and the advice was heeded.

Early in 1983, the British Press reported that Michael had signed for Liverpool, the club he supported as a boy, in a \$500,000 transfer. It wasn't until two months later that the truth was revealed — all conditions had been agreed, except the duration of the contract. Liverpool insisted upon four years, but Finn regarded that as being far too long and would accept no term beyond two years. Negotiations were terminated.

Michael continued serving Brondby until approached by John Hansen, a star forward with Denmark and, from 1948 to 1954, Juventus. Hansen arranged the series of meetings, in both Turin and Copenhagen, which were required before Laudrup signed a contract with the Italian giant.

Yet, it was over two years before the young Dane was actually to wear a Juve shirt. First he completed his academic studies and then spent a couple of seasons on loan to Roman club Lazio — Juventus being content to retain Michel Platini and Zbigniew Boniek as the two foreign players it was permitted to hold.

The period with Lazio proved most traumatic. Firstly, Laudrup had problems learning the Italian language and then found great difficulty in adjusting from the training of a part-time footballer to the seven arduous sessions a week Lazio players underwent.

Those personal troubles were eventually overcome, but nothing could be done to counter the internal strife which bedevilled Lazio. During the 1984-85 season Lazio played under three different managers and ended the campaign at the bottom of Serie A.

There was considerable speculation about Laudrup's future at this stage. It seemed probable that he would return to Denmark, only for Juventus to discard Boniek and bring the Scandinavian six footer to Turin.

From that time on, Laudrup's career has been on the up and up. His pace, skill and powerful shooting have placed him among the top strikers in the game today.

In the months prior to playing in the 1986 World Cup finals, he gained an Italian League Championship medal and the Danish Footballer of the Year award. In Mexico, Laudrup enhanced his reputation but returned to Europe disappointed after the team which promised so much, with exhilarating early performances, crashed wretchedly to Spain in their quarter final.

Hopefully, the much admired Danes will gain a just reward in the near future. If so, Michael Laudrup inevitably will play a major role in their success and perhaps the latest Laudrup to gain footballing fame will be playing along side him.

Brian Laudrup, 17, already has helped Brondby win the Danish First Division and seems set to follow in the footsteps of both his father and elder brother.



• Gary Lineker — Barcelona paid Everton \$5,600,000 for the England striker.

HE'S FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MULLER AND KEMPES

Some truly great players have emerged from past World Cup finals as tournament leading scorer, notably Leonidas, Sander Kocsis, Just Fontaine, Eusebio, Gerd Muller, Mario Kempes and Paulo Rossi. To that list of redoubtless the name of Gary Lineker has been added.

If Lineker does not yet enjoy the repute of some of his predecessors, there can be no denying the Englishman's rare ability to score goals consistently at a time when they have never been scarcer.

A season ticket holder at his home town club, Leicester City, when only eight years old, Lineker participated enthusiastically in a variety of sports throughout his formative years — cricket, athletics, golf, squash and snooker, as well as soccer. Snooker remains a passion and he can boast two century breaks and counts Willie Thorne, one of professional snooker's leading lights, among his best friends.

However, it was schoolboy athletics which proved to be of greatest benefit to him in his later soccer career. Lightning acceleration always has been a major feature of the Lineker game.

Encouraged by his father, a fruit and vegetable stall holder at Leicester Market, Lineker concentrated upon soccer during his latter years at school. This earned him an apprenticeship at Leicester City when 16.

Full-time professional forms were signed two years later and a first team debut made in January, 1979, as a right winger. It took three seasons, a conversion to central striker and a great deal of hard work, enthusiasm and commitment before he was able to claim a regular place in the Leicester senior side.

Lineker's eagerness for improvement through sheer application and ability to run throughout the 90 minutes of a game won him early comparisons with Kevin Keegan.

He won his first cap for England in 1984, coming on

as a substitute against Scotland, but had to wait a further 10 months before gaining a place in the Anglos' starting line-up. Although England coach Bobby Robson took some time to become convinced of Lineker's worth at international level, nobody could argue over his value in club soccer. For four seasons in succession the Leicester leading scorer had attracted offers from Liverpool, Manchester United, Ipswich Town, West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur before Everton parted with \$1,600,000 to secure his transfer in 1985.

The tall, hard working striker realised that he had little chance of winning major honors while wearing the colors of Leicester, a perpetual also-ran in English domestic soccer, and welcomed a move to Everton, then holder of the League Championship and European Cup Winners' Cup, which promised to present him with numerous opportunities for glory.

The 1985-86 season saw Lineker top the English League's goalscoring chart with 30 goals and capture both the Professional Footballers' Association and Football Writers' Association Player of the Year accolades. A hat-trick in a World Cup qualifier against Turkey helped cement his place in the England team.

In Mexico, Lineker's lethal finishing in the six-yard box won admiration throughout the world and convinced Barcelona he was worth \$5,600,000 — the figure required to persuade Everton to part with him.

Becoming the World Cup finals' leading goal-getter was the career high point for Leonidas, Fontaine, Eusebio, Kempes and Rossi, but the feat may well be merely a springboard to greater things for the 25-years-old Englishman.

He will be a key weapon in Barcelona's armory, as it battles for the glittering prizes of Spain and Europe, while England looks to him as its spearhead for its European Championship campaign.

Gary Lineker has yet to play for a major trophy winning side. That should be rectified in the not too distant future.

Even if judged a failure against its own standards which permits nothing less than outright success, Brazil's 1986 side left some marvellous memories — breathtaking coordinated attacking moves, exquisite individual skills and superbly executed goals.

Five of the Brazilians' 10 goals in the Mexico finals during the normal course of games (i.e. excluding penalty shoot-outs) came from Careca, a player whose emergence on the world scene had been long awaited.

It was back in 1978 when Careca first appeared on the front pages of Brazilian sports publications as the spearhead for Guarani, a small club from Campinas, situated 100 kilometers north of Sao Paulo, during its shock National Championship triumph. The

string of goals scored by the 17-year-old included a trophy clincher against Palmeiras in the final.

Careca had joined Guarani five years earlier. The son of Oliveira, a former star with the Ponte Preta club in Sao Paulo, he was enrolled for an innovative soccer school established by Guarani and played football during the day before studying at night.

Originally known as Antonio de Oliveira Filho, he was nicknamed, for obscure reasons, after a locally famous circus clown.

Careca's fortunes declined steadily from 1978, but Careca's reputation as a deadly striker grew. An inevitable national team debut came against West Germany in March, 1982, and further appearances followed against Portugal, Switzerland and the League of Ireland, as Brazil's warm-up program for the World Cup finals reached an advanced stage.

It appeared certain that Careca would

lead his country's attack in Spain until a leg muscle injury sustained just a week before the tournament commenced, reduced him to the role of frustrated spectator.

Had the lithe, quicksilver, yet strong and powerful Guarani striker worn Brazil's number nine jersey instead of the obviously inadequate Serginho, who can tell what would have happened in the Mundial of '82?

Ironically, Careca replaced the Santos-bound Serginho at Sao Paulo FC early in 1983, following a Brazilian domestic record \$1,000,000 transfer from Guarani.

Sao Paulo obviously regarded its new striker as a bargain acquisition. Valencia found that a \$4,000,000 price tag had been placed upon him when it made inquiries a few months later. Two other major European clubs, Internazionale Milan and Nantes, also were deterred by that evaluation.

Careca's return to international soccer, soon after being crowned the Na-

tional Championship's top scorer, brought him five goals from as many games in mid-1983. Unfortunately, the goals then dried up and, for a period of 16 months, he was omitted from "Selecao Brasileira".

A return to top form in 1985 saw him regain his place, but some indifferent performances then followed and only the expulsion from the Brazilian squad of fellow strikers Renato and Eder, both for disciplinary reasons, guaranteed Careca's selection in the opening World Cup finals game line-up against Spain. He then went on to prove himself the latest in a long line of world class Brazilian strikers.

When the next finals are staged, Careca should, at 29 years of age, still be around and we can feel reasonably confident of seeing his dynamic marksman ship in Italy.

With a Brazilian Mundial win now overdue, who would beat against greater glory lying ahead of him?

La va o la spacca

L'anno appena iniziato arà certamente la svolta decisiva per il calcio austaliano e di conseguenza per le società calcistiche che vanno per la maggior parte vanno per la maggior parte. E questa non è una frase fatta che immancabilmente si ripete ad ogni titolo di stagione.

Il calcio nazionale torna alla normalità del tempo concesso a un girone unico. Rivisto e corretto rispetto a quello del 1977 che diede inizio al "calcio nazionale" in questo continente. Rispetto a quel lontano 1977 ci sono dei cambiamenti una certa nolevoletà.

Inizialmente l'avvento della televisione SBS significa ormai da anni che anche il calcio ha una non indifferente copertura televisiva che porta nelle case di centinaia di migliaia di telespettatori. Oltre a popolarizzare lo sport, la televisione ha anche maggiore potere di oleare i sentimenti di conciliazione e di pacificazione a livello di Leagues che a quello di società". E questi sono grossi vantaggi.

Altro favoloso cambiamento è che gli anni di "fare e fare" della Lega Nazionale hanno rotto l'organico più

ideone raggruppando nel massimo campionato le migliori quattordici squadre d'Australia. Oggi, a differenza del 1977 e dei successivi anni a girone unico, la "National League" puo' contare sulle sue 16 Juveans di Melbourne, le Crotoni di Melbourne e Sydney e il G.C. Cross, oltre che APLA e Preston (queste ultime due aggiornate per il rotto della cufa sul finire del primo periodo a girone unico).

E tanto per dirne un'altra, la lega antilettica dell'inizio degli Anni '80 e' andata a farsi benedire come meritava. Ricordate quando i nomi delle grosse squadre erano stati "capitali" e rimpiazzati con le imbecillaggini di "Preston Rams", "South Melbourne Gunners", Sola questi giornali e i loro lettori ad accettare forse della veritiera della classe dirigente e della mediocrità dei giocatori. Anzi in fatto di allenatori creiamo che si sia addirittura peggiorato.

Ed è proprio su questi punti determinanti che il calcio austaliano rischia di "non farcela". Purtroppo la maggior parte dei dirigenti di club, e di federazione, sono ancora dei volenterosi dilettanti che stanno rischiando di mandare

Schwab. A proposito, Lawrie e' stato promosso nel gruppo editoriale "The Age - Newspress" e il nuovo direttore e' Craig McKenzie.

Per di piu' anche finita ormai la guerra fra la Federazione Australiana, le Federazioni Statali e la Lega Nazionale, la onda dell'onestezza storica sentiamo il dovere di ricordare che nella stesura ed adozione della complicata formula di "pace" ebbe un apporto determinante il "nostro" Vito Claudio, a quel tempo chairman pro tempore della VSF durante l'assenza del titolare Weinstein.

Quindi la Lega Nazionale a girone unico del 1987 e' in salvo molto più florida di quella del 1977. Quasi tutto e' migliorato in questi due anni, ad eccezione forse della veritiera della classe dirigente e della mediocrità dei giocatori. Anzi in fatto di allenatori creiamo che si sia addirittura peggiorato.

E non parliamo degli allenatori che sembrano decisi a distruggere le individualità per creare quell'assieme di mar-

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VIVA ITALIA!
with ROCKY DI ZIO

bancorotte societa' e federazioni. E per ora non andiamo in dettagli più approfonditi su questo scabroso argomento; non mancherà occasione nel futuro.

Stiamo chiedendo che la qualità individuale dei giocatori e' messa di molto, negli ultimi anni. Alcuni non saranno d'accordo perché tratti in Inganno da un certo miglioramento della media dei giocatori, senza tener conto che il calcio spettacolo e' fatto da alcuni fuoriclasse e non da undici mediocri giocatori.

Nel calcio di oggi non abbiamo i grandi nomi, non abbiamo i virtuosi ed i fuoriclasse che trascinano i tifosi e li fanno discutere animatamente ed appassionatamente di tutto, a settimana, fino alla partita successiva. Ricordate quando non si andava a vedere la Juventus o i Marconi, ma si andava a vedere McCall, Kinnell, Vieri e mcGuinness? E' gente come questa che manca oggi! E i dirigenti non sembrano facciano niente per trovarne di nuovi.

E non parliamo degli allenatori che sembrano decisi a distruggere le individualità per creare quell'assieme di mar-

gassi che non fa giocare l'avversario e riduce le possibilità di perdere, anche se ammazza lo spettacolo e nausea gli spettatori.

E' un peccato perciò che, nonostante le migliori condizioni commerciali ed ambientali, gli ingredienti principali (dirigenti, allenatori e giocatori) sono ancora ad un livello che lascia molto a desiderare.

Comunque la riduzione da 24 a 14 squadre dovrebbe operare una selezione dei migliori giocatori ed assicurare così un livello più elevato di individualità nelle varie squadre. Ci vorrebbe anche il "miracolo" di un cambiamento di atteggiamento da parte di alcuni allenatori "negativi" per migliorare un po' le cose.

Le ipotesi che si possono fare in questo momento dell'anno sono perciò dipendenti da quella grossa incognita rappresentata dalla qualità e dal buon senso della classe dirigente del calcio locale. Se i pochi nuovi elementi capaci e i vecchie che "hanno imparato"

qualcosa riusciranno assieme a portare quel tanto necessario rinnovamento di idee e di filosofia, gli altri problemi sono risolvibili e le condizioni favorevoli possono essere strutturate idealmente per la definitiva affermazione della Lega Nazionale e, di conseguenza, di tutto il calcio australiano.

In caso negativo il 1987 potrebbe vedere la bancarotta della maggior parte delle società di Lega Nazionale ed il ritorno all'età della pietra calcistica. Speriamo in bene.

Anche per la Juventus il 1987 sarà l'anno del "la va o la spacca", a prescindere da quello che succederà con il resto del calcio nazionale. La vecchia signora di Melbourne si trova infatti in una situazione del tutto particolare.

Klaus KO's coaches!

Controversial Hobart coach Otto Klaus has launched a vehement attack on the practice by some Tasmanian clubs of appointing unqualified coaches.

"Only coaches with at least a level three certificate should be coaching at Cadbury State League level," Klaus said.

"I don't think anyone under that level has the experience to handle and coach a team in the top grade."

Klaus singled out Rapid and champion White Eagles as prime examples of clubs that had appointed unqualified coaches for the coming season.

Rapid has appointed goalkeeper Phil Kannegieser, while White Eagles will defend the title it won under Steve Darby with defender Bobby Rybak at the helm.

"I'm a strong believer in the idea that every coach should work his way up through the ranks and that every coach should have a coaching certificate," Klaus said.

"Australia, and especially Tasmania, is one of the few places in the world where coaches can be employed in the top grades without first having served their apprenticeship."

"Clubs and committees believe too much in appointing

players who have made a name for themselves on the playing field, or who have given service to the club over many years."

Klaus, who arrived in Tasmania from New South Wales in 1983, always has had a stormy existence in his adopted State.

He took his first club, Ulverstone, to the Ampol Cup title but then was sacked by Olympia-WPL and Rapid.

He is now a coach with newly-promoted Hobart City-Azzurri, whose senior coach is Remo Carnevale.

"At least Remo immediately booked into the up-coming level three course in Ulverstone following the announcement of his appointment and that should serve as an example to all would-be coaches."

"I think the committee under-estimated the sort of season the club will be in for because I think they'll need an experienced coach in their first season in the Cadbury State League."

Klaus was also highly critical of some club committees who, he said, supported the players at the expense of the coach.

He believed that coaches were often made the scapegoats for poor team performances when it was really the players who were at fault.



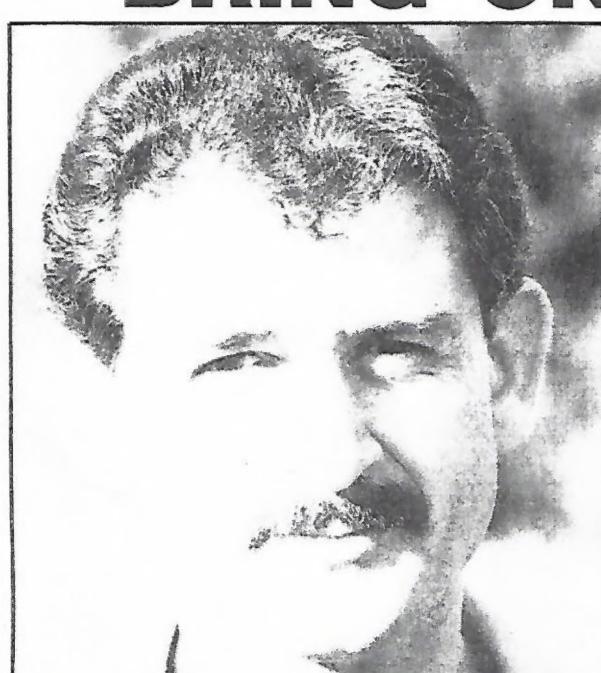
Tasmanian Scene

with WALTER PLESS



• Otto Klaus (right) with Hobart City-Azzurri's new signing from Taroona, striker Neil Bishop.

BRING ON JUVE SAYS AZZURRI'S CARNEVALE



Remo Carnevale (pictured) Hobart City-Azzurri's new coach, is confident of doing a good job in his first year in charge of a Tasmanian senior club.

"I think our number one priority is to stay in the Cadbury State League by avoiding relegation in our first year at senior level," Carnevale said.

"Priority number two is to win the premiership," he added with a chuckle.

Carnevale had an illustrious playing career, beginning with Caledonians in 1962.

He only made two senior appearances for the club, spending most of the time in the under-19s and reserves, before moving on to Juventus in 1964.

He was to remain with the club for a total of 15 years.

After retiring from the senior scene in 1978 — his last game was as a second-half substitute in Juventus' 0-5 loss to Croatia-Glenorchy in the final flood-light match in Tasmania — he had short spells with Hobart City and P.O. Saints.

He now keeps fit by playing indoor soccer with Euro, the team that represented Tasmania in the recent Canberra tournament.

Although he has coached junior teams at Domain College and Juventus, the task facing him at Hobart City will be the toughest yet.

To prepare himself for it, Carnevale has enrolled for the level three coaching course to be held in Ulverstone prior to the start of the season.

"I can already see a lot of the responsibilities I'll have and the problems that will lie ahead for

me but, as time goes on, I'll get a better feel of what's involved," he said.

"I'm pretty confident I'll do a good job because of the years I've been involved with soccer."

"We'll do well with the players we've got because they're very keen to do well and to prove that they're worthy of playing in the top league."

"One of the problems they'll face, of course, is coping with the pressure week after week, game after game, and having to carry on until the end of the season."

Carnevale would like to add a few more quality players to his squad for, as he says, the opposition might have problems if he can field a really good side.

He looks for skill and the ability to think quickly in his players and he likes intelligent players who keep their heads up and use the ball wisely rather than just kick it aimlessly up front.

Hobart City is the second Italian club in the Cadbury State League and Carnevale believes that the rivalry between City and Juventus should benefit the game by bringing back the supporters in their droves.

Sentimenti plays no part in soccer at the top level, however, and although Carnevale still cherishes the black-and-white colours of his former club, he has no compunction about beating Juventus.

"I respect Juventus but it will be a source of great satisfaction for me and the team if we beat them," he said.



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